

Walk Friendly Communities Profile

NAME OF COMMUNITY

Minneapolis, Minnesota

LEVEL OF DESIGNATION

Gold



BACKGROUND

POPULATION: 382,578

AREA: 58 square miles

POPULATION DENSITY: 6,596 per square mile

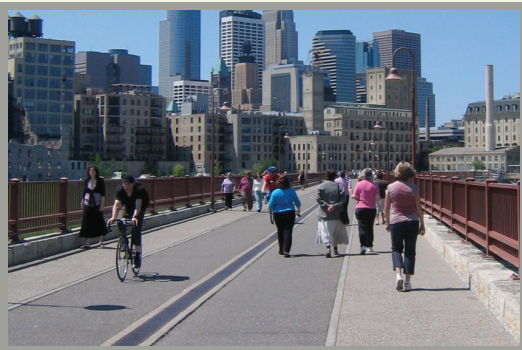
PEDESTRIAN PLAN:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian/pedestrian-masterplan.asp>

PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM WEB SITE:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian>

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Minneapolis is designated as a Gold-level community due to the city's excellent planning policies, high level of staff commitment to pedestrian safety, and pedestrian campaigns and events. Highlights of Minneapolis's application include:

- ✓ Minneapolis has a large amount of **staff dedicated to pedestrian issues**. Through the Public Works Department employing staff to maintain and repair sidewalks, the Minneapolis Public School System employing full time staff to work on Safe Routes to School, and several ambassador programs promoting walking and working towards creating a welcoming pedestrian environment throughout the City, Minneapolis has a multitude of opportunities for pedestrian issues to be addressed.
- ✓ Minneapolis's **extensive sidewalk network** is an example of how the City is devoted to providing pedestrian facilities. Over 90 percent of streets in Minneapolis have complete sidewalks and over 80 percent of streets have sidewalks on both sides of the street. The City's Sidewalk Inspections Office conducts an annual sidewalk and curb ramp repair program that replaces any

defective sidewalks and curb ramps on a regular basis. Minneapolis also promotes the walking environment by providing pedestrian facilities on bridges throughout the City. Currently, all bridges have sidewalks on at least one side and all new bridges must provide pedestrian facilities.

- ✓ Minneapolis's **Complete Streets policies** (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/transplan/Citywide_CouncilFinal_Ch4_071709.pdf) encourage walking by promoting sidewalk lighting, pedestrian improvements, street furniture and landscaping, and other street design improvements. Many of the objectives of the Complete Streets policy work towards completing the goals set up by the Pedestrian Master Plan of Minneapolis, enhancing the City's walking environment.
- ✓ Minneapolis has a number of **pedestrian-oriented campaigns and events** to educate and encourage residents to walk.
 - o Safe Routes (<http://bikewalktwincities.org/ambassadors/ambassador-programs/safe-routes>) is a collection of educational lessons for various school grades on pedestrian and bicycle safety.
 - o BikeWalkMove (<http://bikewalkmove.org/>) is part of a public service campaign conducted by BikeWalk Twin Cities and the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support in North Minneapolis to provide educational messages and awareness messages about bicycling and walking in a variety of public spaces including newspapers, bus boards, and radio ads.
 - o Bike/Walk to Work Week (<http://bikewalkweek.org/>) is an event meant to showcase the advantages of commuting to work in alternate ways.
 - o Open Streets (<http://openstreetsmpls.com>), based on the Colombian ciclovía, is a walking and cycling event for all in the City. By closing the street to motorists, residents are able to recreate and explore their City without the presence of automobiles.
- ✓ Minneapolis conducts **pedestrian counts** through several different methods and agencies to help provide an accurate depiction of the pedestrian activity within the City. The Department of Public Works (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian/pedestrian-counts.asp>) has conducted pedestrian counts around the City every September from 2007 on. Since 1958, the City of Minneapolis has conducted counts of all modes of transportation through its periodic Downtown Cordon Count (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2004-meetings/20040227/docs/11_cordon_count_report.pdf), the most recent being in 2003. The third instance of pedestrian counting is conducted as part of the periodic intersection turning movement counts conducted by the Department of Public Works (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/traffic-counts.asp>).

- ✓ The **pedestrian street lighting** in Minneapolis provides a safe walking environment for pedestrians during the hours when visibility is limited. Nearly all arterial and non-arterial streets have lighting on one or both sides of the streets making walking at night safer.
- ✓ Minneapolis's **parking standards** are representative of working towards creating a more pedestrian friendly environment. All zoning districts in Minneapolis have maximum parking standards and no minimum parking standards. The City has a number of priced parking spaces in garages and metered spaces as well as a large number of park and ride spaces with bus service to the downtown area. Ground floor parking garages must have commercial, residential, office, or hotel uses between the parking garage and public sidewalks to foster a better walking environment.
- ✓ The **crosswalk practices** in Minneapolis are indicative of the City's push for a safe walking environment. All designated midblock crosswalks have overhead flashing beacons and use high visibility striping. Marked crosswalks are provided at all signalized intersections throughout the City.



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