

# Fact Sheet

## SIDEWALKS – A SMART INVESTMENT

### Economic benefits

- **INCREASED BUSINESS:** Sidewalks improve customer traffic for retail businesses.
- **A DESTINATION:** A pleasant street becomes a destination for walkers. Research from other countries suggests that walkers spend more than drivers.
- **SAVINGS ON PETROL:** Decreased use of cars means savings on petrol and other vehicle costs.
- **DECREASED MEDICAL COSTS:** Decreased medical costs due to fewer emergency room visits, operations, hospitalizations and other care.

### Health benefits

- **ROAD SAFETY:** Sidewalks improve pedestrian safety; those who walk on sidewalks have fewer crashes with cars than those who walk in the street.
- **FEWER ACCIDENTS:** Pedestrians on well-designed sidewalks have fewer falls and other accidents.
- **INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:** People with access to sidewalks are more likely to get physical activity.
- **MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING:** Moderate exercise, such as walking, contributes to mental and physical well-being.
- **FEWER DISEASES:** People who are more active physically have less obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and certain cancers.

### Other benefits

- **TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVED:** By moving pedestrians off of the car travel lanes, motorist operations are improved and capacity increased.
- **REDUCED CRIME:** Streets with lots of pedestrians are safer than empty streets.
- **IMPROVED AIR QUALITY:** More walking and less car travel means less air pollution.
- **STRONGER COMMUNITY:** Neighborhoods with good sidewalks have an enhanced sense of community through better connections to neighbors and businesses.