



15 Min  
Neighbourhoods:

To walk, or not to  
walk, that is the  
question.

Walkable Ottawa



# Walkable Ottawa

A volunteer initiative:

... **seeking to collaborate** with residents/community associations, developers, housing, environmental and social advocates **to develop a vision for complete, walkable, sustainable neighbourhoods**

... **testing of ideas** through website/blogs/ policy papers, workshops, advocacy

... **to develop practical solutions** for walkable, 15-minute neighbourhoods into achievable plans.

# What is a 15 min Neighbourhood?

***“A neighbourhood that is a great place to go for a walk”***

***“A neighbourhood that puts stuff closer together so it's easier to get to the stuff.”***

# Walkable Ottawa's definition:

A neighbourhood where residents can walk/bike/roll from their home:

- to at least ~ 80% of their weekly destinations,
- conveniently, safely and enjoyably,
- and to a frequent/reliable/connected transit stop,
- within ~ 15 minutes.

# 15 min Neighbourhoods depend on an **ecosystem** of elements:

- **Destinations and amenities** = “The stuff” to meet day to day needs
  - ✓ Commercial shops & services
  - ✓ parks and greenspace
  - ✓ Schools and childcare
  - ✓ recreation/entertainment
  - ✓ Healthcare services
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> places...(welcoming, accessible, social!, not home or work)
- Enough **people** to support/sustain “the stuff”
- **Diversity of housing** options to house people
- Safe, enjoyable and convenient **walking/rolling routes**
- Access to frequent, reliable, and connected **transit**

# Where can I get to in 15 minutes?

## “Walkshed”



## “Cycledshed”

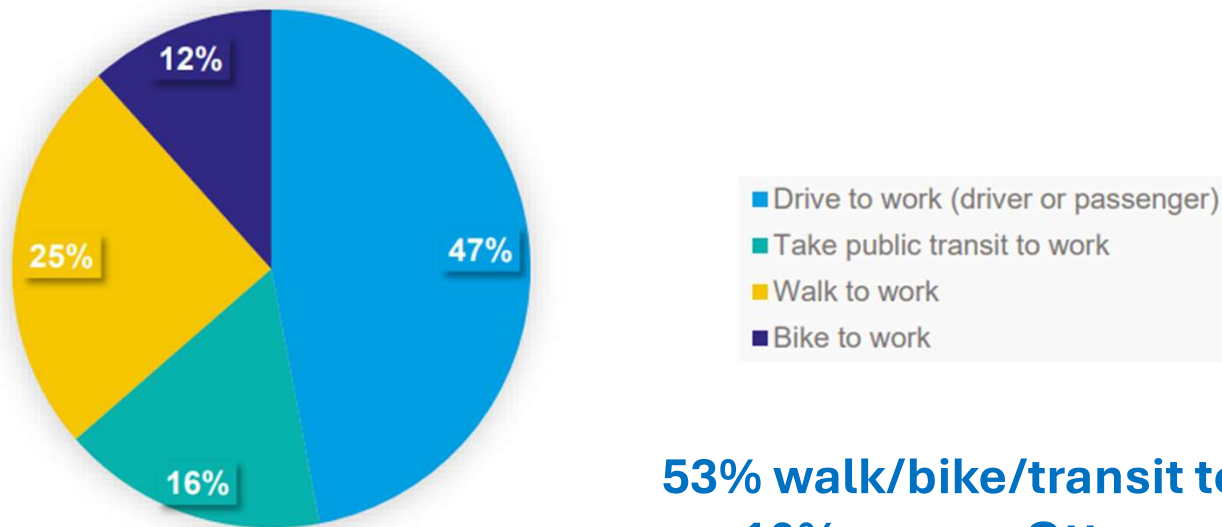


# What are the benefits of a 15 min NH?

- Healthier
- Happier
- Greener
- Safer
- More affordable

# Glebe Active Transportation Study 2023:

Mode Share (Glebe - Dow's Lake)



**53% walk/bike/transit to work in Glebe,  
vs. 10% across Ottawa**

# Why and when do we walk to destinations?

## Think about...

Work/Volunteer commute?

Grocery /hardware?

Dinner out?

Evening activity?

Gym/ kids sports?



# ...to destinations in the “cycle-shed”?

## Think about...

Work/Volunteer commute?

Grocery /hardware?

Dinner out?

Evening activity?

Gym/ kids sports?



# To walk or not to walk – how do you decide?

## **Think about:**

- What % of destinations do you walk to during typical week/month?
- Why/when do you drive to destinations within your N’hood or “cycle-shed”?
- What are the key “drivers” of your choice to walk/cycle vs. drive?
- What would need to change for you to walk or cycle more often?

# Walkability – is there an app for that?



➔ **What features/  
information  
would you  
provide?**

➔ **Different  
considerations  
for different app  
users?**

## **Safety**

Ex. vehicle speed

- ...???

## **Convenience**

Ex. walk time vs. drive time

- ...???

## **Enjoyment**

Ex. Interesting things to look at/ beautiful

- ...???

# Walkability – is there an app for that?

## Safety

- Vehicle traffic/speed
- Road crossings
- Pavement/Sidewalk along route
- Fear of Crime?
- People!

## Convenience

- Walk time vs. drive time + parking
- Navigation to shops and services
- Walk cost vs. drive cost

## Enjoyment

- Interesting things to look at / beautiful?
- People!
- Shade/heat
- Wind/Snow/ice conditions
- Hilliness





Thank you

[www.walkableottawa.ca](http://www.walkableottawa.ca)