



ACE Communities Workshop on Walkable and Vibrant Small Towns

Thursday, July 19th, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

First United Methodist Church
861 Middle St, Montevallo, AL 35115

Workshop Goals

After completing this workshop, community teams will be able to:

1. Plan and organize walkability audits in their own communities
2. Explain the economic development and health benefits of walkable communities
3. Discuss and apply relevant models, case studies, and toolkits for improving walkability in small and rural towns
4. Engage partners and launch a pedestrian planning process for their own communities
5. Estimate costs and identify funding sources for planning and implementation



Planning Committee and Partners

MONTEVALLO ALABAMA



Welcome to the Workshop

Good morning, and welcome to today's *ACE Communities Workshop on Walkable and Vibrant Small Towns!*

It has been a great pleasure for me to work with Sidney Hoover (Executive Director of Alabama Communities of Excellence) and all the partners listed opposite, to plan this workshop over the last several months. I have organized and facilitated dozens of walkability workshops over the years, but never before had a planning committee that has stepped up with great ideas and a willingness to invest time and resources, like this one has.

America Walks is a national education and advocacy organization focused on promoting walking and expanding walkable communities across the United States. Americans know about the health and quality of life benefits of walking; we have learned how to make the policy and community design changes that make walking safe, convenient, and enjoyable; and now we are seeing a range of additional benefits from public safety to transportation equity to local economic development. In recent years, walkability strategies in large cities have been adapted for small and rural communities, with great success. Therefore, it is our hope that today's event will lead to a surge of interest in walking (for recreation and errands) in Brewton, Eufaula, Fayette, Foley, Haleyville, Heflin, Jasper, *Leeds, Montevallo, and Tallassee.

Today's workshop follows from our *Alabama State Collaborative Workshop on Walkable Communities*, held in Montgomery just over a year ago, which was hosted by ADECA, ALDOT, and ADPH and led to recommendations for statewide strategies as well as a new focus on building the capacity of small and rural communities.

Both workshops have been generously funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Public Health Association.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ian Thomas, PhD
State and Local Program Director, America Walks
ian@americawalks.org, 573-239-7916

**The Leeds team is unable to attend today's workshop, but we hope they will remain as part of the program.*

Workshop Agenda

8:30 am: Coffee/Networking

9:00 – 9:15 am

Welcome and Overview

Mayor Hollie Cost (City of Montevallo)
Sidney Hoover (Alabama Communities of Excellence)
Ian Thomas (America Walks)

9:15 – 10:15 am

Introductions to the Community Teams

<i>Brewton</i>	<i>Heflin</i>
<i>Eufaula</i>	<i>Jasper</i>
<i>Fayette</i>	<i>Leeds*</i>
<i>Foley</i>	<i>Montevallo</i>
<i>Haleyville</i>	<i>Tallassee</i>

10:15 – 10:45 am

Walking and Walkability: Benefits and Strategies

Ian Thomas (America Walks)

10:45 am: Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Partnering with State Agencies and Organizations

Molly Killman (ADPH)
Brad Lindsey (ALDOT)
Shante Holley (ADECA)
Mary Helmer (Alabama Main Street)

12:00 – 12:30 pm

Making your Walkability Projects Inclusive

Amy Rauworth (Lakeshore Foundation/NCHPAD)
Allison Tubbs (Lakeshore Foundation/NCHPAD)

12:30 pm: Lunch

12:30 pm: Lunch

1:00 – 1:15 pm

Pop-Up Projects: Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper

Nick Sims (United Way of Central Alabama)

1:15 – 1:30 pm

How to Lead a Walkability Audit

Anne Hails (AARP of Alabama)

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Walkability Audits and Debrief

Amy Rauworth, Allison Tubbs, and Trey Sullivan (Lakeshore Foundation/NCHPAD)

Brian Rushing (University of Alabama Center for Economic Development)

Nick Sims (United Way of Central Alabama)

Candi Williams (AARP of Alabama)

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Models, Case Studies, and Toolkits

Ian Thomas (America Walks)

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Community Asset-Mapping Exercise

Community Teams

3:45 – 4:15 pm

Community Goal-Setting Activity

Community Teams

4:15 – 4:30 pm

Review and Next Steps

Sidney Hoover (Alabama Communities of Excellence)

Nisa Miranda (University of Alabama Center for Economic Development)

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Post-Workshop Reception

Parnell Memorial Library Terrace and Gallery, 277 Park Drive

Sponsored by: University of Alabama Center for Economic Development

Workshop Participants

Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE)

Management

- Sidney Hoover, Executive Director
- Martha Whitson, Program Assistant

Brewton

- Connie Baggett, City of Brewton (ACE Local Coordinator)
- Brandon Bias, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc.
- Carmen Boshell
- Craig Jerkins, City of Brewton Public Works
- Steve Layton, City of Brewton
- Stephanie Walker, Greater Brewton Foundation

Eufaula

- Allie Corcoran, Barbour County Extension
- Stephanie Cox, Medical Center Barbour
- Scott Farmer, SEARP&DC
- Gloria Helms, ACE Local Coordinator
- Mayor Jack Tibbs, City of Eufaula

Fayette

- William Eaves, Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cory Johnson, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Marla Kizzire, Encore Rehab
- Mayor Ray Nelson, City of Fayette
- Cathy Robertson, Fayette Community Development Corporation
- Danny White, Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce

Foley

- Miriam Boutwell, City of Foley (ACE Local Coordinator)
- Leslie Gahagan, Graham Creek Preserve
- Councilman Ralph Hellmich, City of Foley
- Sue Steigerwald, City of Foley

Haleyville

- Council Member Richard Bittinger, City of Haleyville
- Beau Cooper, Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments
- Mike Evans, Haleyville Chamber of Commerce
- Thad Harris, Alabama Department of Public Health
- Gerita Rye,
- Joel Sherrill, City of Haleyville Parks and Recreation Department
- Melinda Weaver, Alabama Power Company (ACE Local Coordinator)
- Nathan Willingham, Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments

Heflin

- Kamaran Holland City of Heflin Parks and Recreation Department
- Tanya Maloney, City of Heflin Economic Development Department (Main Street Director)
- Libby Messick, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Tammy Perry City of Heflin Parks and Recreation Department
- Shane Smith, City of Heflin (ACE Local Coordinator)

Jasper

- Tana Collins, Local ACE Coordinator
- Paul Kennedy, Walker Area Community Foundation
- Elyse Peters, Walker County Health Action Partnership
- Keith Pike, City of Jasper Planning Department
- Council Member Jennifer Williams Smith, City of Jasper

Montevallo

- Courtney Bennett, Montevallo Main Street
- Sharman Brooks, Shelby County Planning Services
- Shane Baugh, City of Montevallo Parks Department
- Jermaine Mitchell, University of Montevallo
- Mayor Hollie Cost, City of Montevallo
- Hunter Garrison, Greater Birmingham Regional Planning Commission
- Steve Gilbert, Montevallo Chamber of Commerce
- Katie Howard, City of Montevallo
- Herman Lehman, City of Montevallo (ACE Local Coordinator)
- Dee Woodham, Montevallo Cooperative Development District

Tallasse

- Councilman Terrel Brown, City of Tallasse
- Jerry Cunningham, Chamber of Commerce
- Cheryl Hutchinson, Tallasse Housing Authority
- Laura Leigh Peters, Community Home Health and Community Hospice
- Darrell Rigsby, Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Suzy Solomon Wilson, ACE Local Coordinator

Advocacy, Non-Profit and University Partners

University of Alabama Center for Economic Development

- Nisa Miranda, Director
- Brian Rushing, Director of Economic Development Initiatives
- Candace Johnson, Tourism/Community Development Director

AARP of Alabama

- Candi Williams, State Director
- Anne Hails, Associate State Director of Community Outreach
- Tawanna Wright

Lakeshore Foundation

- Amy Rauworth, Director of Policy and Public Affairs
- Allison Tubbs, Project Coordinator, National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD)
- Karin Korb, Policy and Public Affairs Coordinator
- Kelly Bonner, Senior Information Specialist
- Bob Lujano, Information Specialist
- Rebecca Cline, Information Specialist/Nutritionist
- Chris Mackey, Information Specialist
- Alex Martinez, Information Specialist
- Matt Henton, Videographer
- Ingrid Pfau, Videographer
- Chase Tinnon, Videographer
- Trey Sullivan, Intern

United Way of Central Alabama

- Nick Sims, Assistant VP, Early Childhood Education and Healthy Communities

Main Street Alabama

- Mary Helmer, President/State Coordinator
- Trish Black, Field Services Specialist

State of Alabama Government Partners

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)

- Molly Killman, Nutrition and Physical Activity Division Director
- Carolyn Bern, Community Affairs Director

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)

- Brad Lindsey, Deputy State Local Transportation Engineer
- James Boyer
- Waymon Benifield, Safety Administrator
- Toni Arrington, Transportation Planner

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

- Shante Holley, Recreation and Conservation Program Specialist

Workshop Funder/Facilitator

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Tom Schmid, Lead Behavioral Scientist, Physical Activity and Health Branch

America Walks

- Kate Kraft, Executive Director
- Ian Thomas, State and Local Program Director