

MILWAUKEE PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Public Works Committee – July 17, 2019



What is the Pedestrian Plan?

- Citywide plan to make walking safer, more enjoyable, & more accessible
- Aligns with City's Complete Streets Policy
- Based on community feedback
- Involved substantial research & analysis
- Includes 20 recommendations & over 100 actions



MILWAUKEE PEDESTRIAN PLAN

FINAL DRAFT | April 2019

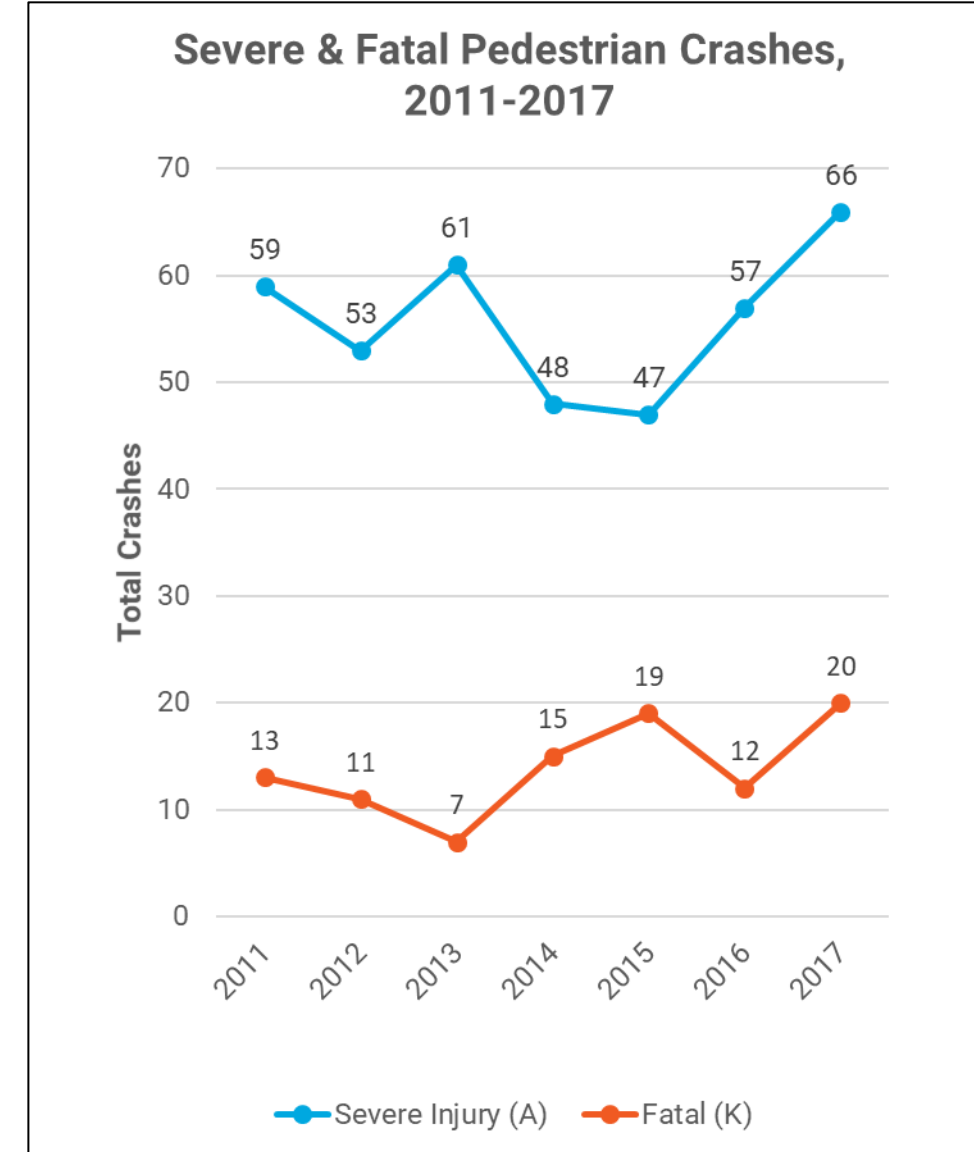
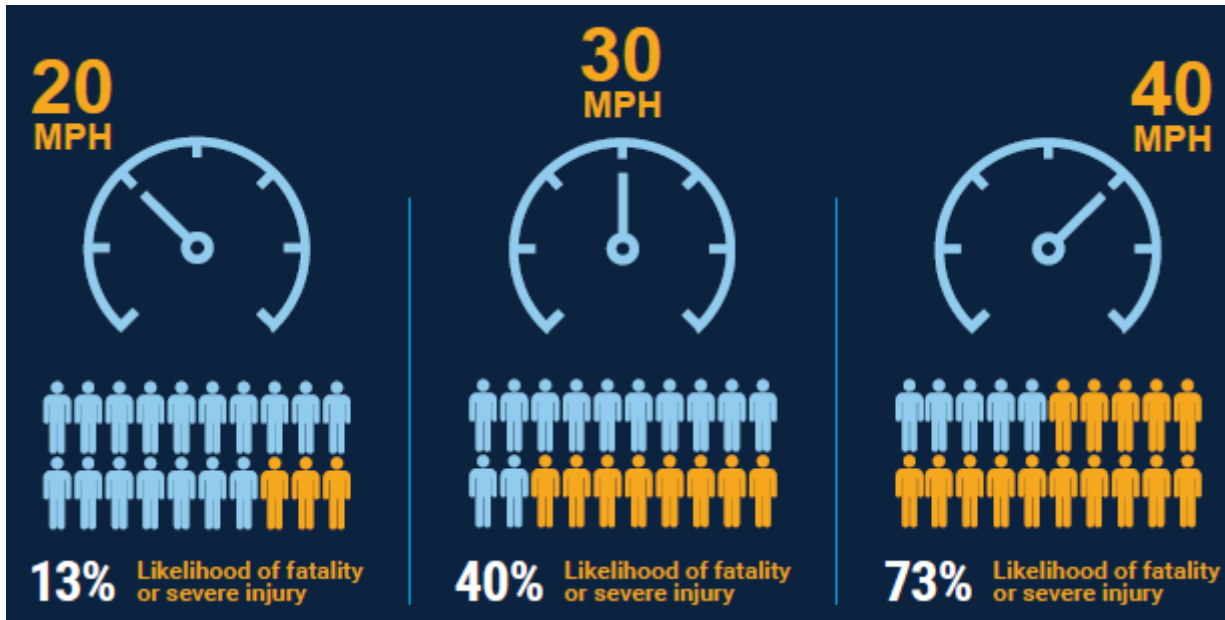
What are the Issues?

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Livability & Health
- Funding & City Processes



Issues: Safety

- Since 1997, **total pedestrian crashes have decreased over 50%.**
- **Severe and fatal pedestrian crashes have increased** substantially in the last 3 years
- People driving rarely yield to people crossing the street
- Excessive speeding is a major problem
- **Higher motor vehicle speeds increase crash severity for people walking**



Issues: Accessibility & Connectivity

- Not all streets have sidewalks
- Sidewalk conditions vary throughout the City
- Not all curb ramps and bus stops are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



Issues: Livability & Health

- Traffic safety is a public health concern
- Fewer than 50% of Americans meet the minimum guidelines for physical activity (*US HHS*)
- Communities designed around driving have lower social cohesion and higher transportation costs (*Litman*)
- Walkable commercial districts support local economic development



Issues: Funding & City Processes

- Process to improve safety is often reactive
- Streets have historically prioritized driving
- Prioritization of resources is needed to address street and sidewalk concerns
- A process is needed to use available data for decision making



Safety

- Street design guidance
- Proactive safety improvements
- Rapid implementation improvements
- Safety at signalized intersections
- Vision Zero principles
- Citywide crosswalk marking policy
- Community-supported traffic enforcement & education

Accessibility

- Accessibility for all ages and abilities
- Address gaps in sidewalk network
- Ensure clear routes on sidewalks
- Ensure accessible transit stops
- Multiple ways to report issues

Livability & Health

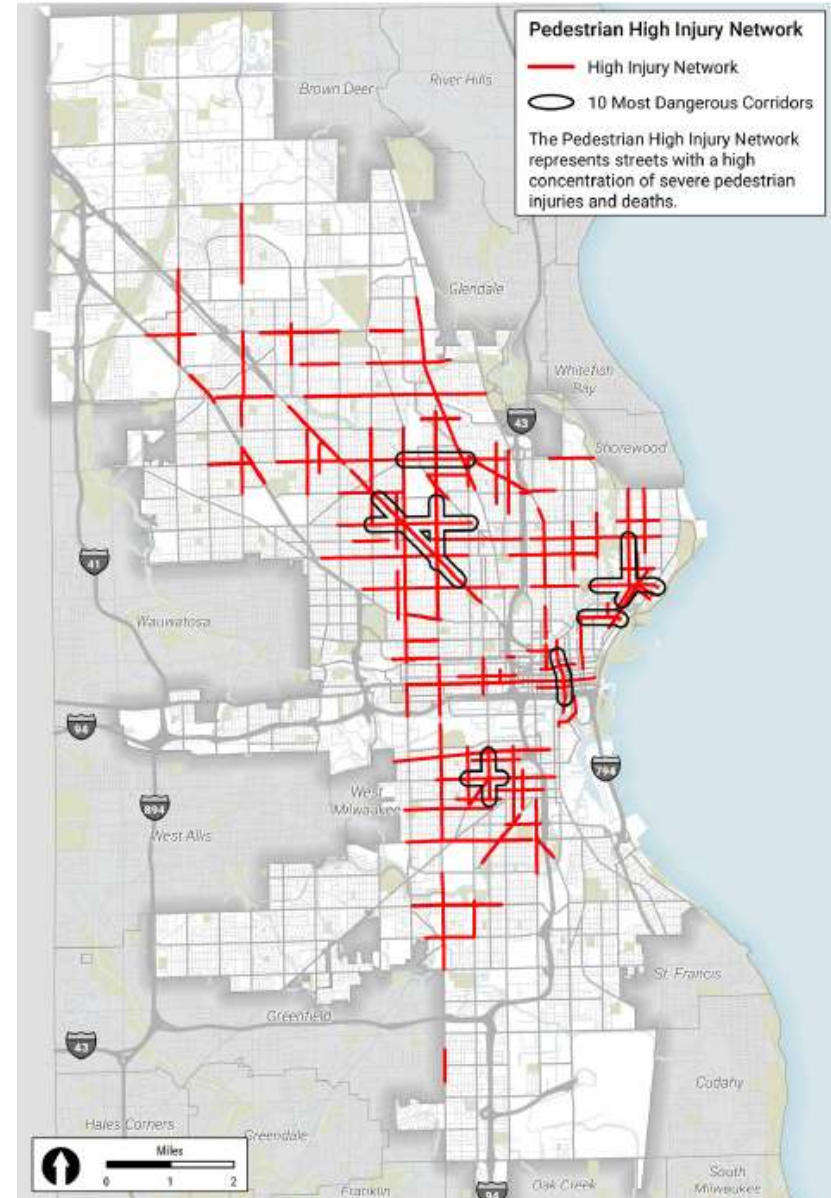
- Encourage placemaking in neighborhoods
- Use streets for programmed events

Maintenance & Operations

- Maintain pedestrian facilities for safety & accessibility
- Expand program to address sidewalk tripping hazards
- Annual funding source to implement pedestrian safety & traffic calming
- Evaluate staffing
- Use data to evaluate and prioritize projects
- Provide annual pedestrian safety training

Fiscal Impact

- No impact upfront
 - Blueprint for prioritizing projects, initiatives & grant applications
 - Formalize best practices around design & community engagement
 - Already implementing many of the actions
- If efforts require additional funding, plan provides foundation and support for decision makers



- Common Council adoption
- Integrate recommendations into existing policies & processes
- Align goals & objectives among partners
- Prioritize actions via collaboration with other departments, agencies & committees including:
 - Public Works Committee
 - Public Safety and Health Committee
 - Complete Streets Committee
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force
- Check out the website for more: milwaukee.gov/pedplan

Thank you!

Questions?



Pedestrian Safety Toolbox

- Infrastructure tools that make walking safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable
- Includes images and descriptions of each tool & recommendations for their use
- Tools can be used together often for greater safety gains

