

2026

Community Walk Audit



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Executive Summary



In June 2025, Wellness to the West, in partnership with Every Neighborhood Partnership (ENP), Beyond Housing, Southwest Fresno POWER (Partnership for Opportunity Wellness Equity & Restoration), and Saint Agnes Medical Center, conducted a series of Walk & Roll Community Infrastructure Audits in various sectors across Southwest Fresno. Over the course of multiple community activations, more than 75 residents, youth, elders, and partners participated in visual observation, study, and data collection through four neighborhoods. Participants documented their experience and observations on navigating Southwest Fresno. Participants were mostly pedestrians, while some also joined with devices such as strollers, wheelchairs, mobility devices, bikes, and scooters. Participants identified where public infrastructure supports or undermines safety, health, and dignity. The audit combined ground-level observation, qualitative surveys, and group debrief conversations. Surveys were filled out both individually and as small groups, allowing participants to collectively share their experience in their everyday movement through their community.



Executive Summary

Continued

Across all four routes, participants consistently emphasized:

- Serious concerns about traffic speed and unsafe crossings
- Broken, missing, or obstructed sidewalks are impacting mobility
- Insufficient lighting and shade, especially in high-traffic and transitional areas
- Limited safe access to parks, trails, transit, and key community destinations
- The emotional and health impacts of neglect, dumping, and underinvestment
- A strong desire for beautification, safety upgrades, and equitable investment

The following report synthesizes the data, observations, and reflections that residents and participants contributed and prioritized, while also providing community-driven recommendations for future infrastructure, health, and planning decisions in Southwest Fresno.



Background & Purpose



Background

Southwest Fresno is a historically disinvested area experiencing long-term infrastructure neglect, limited access to safe pedestrian spaces, and higher vulnerability to health disparities. Wellness to the West centers physical movement, connection, and healing as a response to both structural inequities and community disconnection.

The Walk & Roll audit served as a tool to both document conditions and reclaim space, allowing community members to collectively experience and assess their neighborhood while identifying what must change to create safer, healthier environments.

Purpose

This Community Walk Audit was intended to do the following:

1. Assess pedestrian and mobility safety conditions in Southwest Fresno.
2. Center resident voice and lived experience in infrastructure evaluation.
3. Collect qualitative data to inform planning and public investment.
4. Build leadership and ownership among community members.
5. Generate actionable, community-driven recommendations.





LAND USE

- Empty lots, boarded up homes, underutilized space
- More commercial units, flexible venues for community use
- More shading and better land activation
- More community gardens or green mix-use spaces
- Ease of planting with native herbs and vegetables for community benefit



SAFETY & COMFORT

- Lack of “Yield to Pedestrian” signs
- Fading crosswalks
- No visible bike lanes
- Unleashed dogs roaming neighborhoods
- Uneven sidewalks causing tripping hazards
- Minimal shade causing heat exposure
- Litter and lack of trash receptacles
- Factory odors concern for quality of life



FACILITIES



- Limited shading and seated bus stops
- No public water
- Uneven sidewalks
- Limited pedestrian infrastructure
- Overgrown weeds and roots between concrete
- Apartment complex with unpaved parking
- Splash pad or waterpark for youth and families
- Resting or workout stations along walkways



ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTION

- Alley way with broken gates and inconsistent access control
- High price stores dominate retail options
- Need for local grocery store within walkable distance
- Blocked street at Fresno & Martin causing dead end
- Cars blocking sidewalks
- Need for gas station to support basic neighborhood access

Recommendations

Short Term Recommendations

- **Eliminating Mobility Barriers:** Remediating high-risk sidewalk segments to ensure ADA compliance and safe, continuous pedestrian passage for residents with mobility challenges.
- **Enhance Pedestrian Safety Infrastructure:** Implementing high-visibility crosswalks and lighting improvements to reduce traffic-related injuries in under-invested corridors.
- **Create “Climate friendly” Rest Points:** Integrating shade structures and seating at designed transit stops to mitigate extreme heat impacts, ensuring pedestrian commutes are dignified and safe.
- **Optimizing the Built Environment for Enhanced Access:** Upgrading the physical pathways that connect residential areas to transit hubs and employment centers, directly supporting engagement and access to economic activity and centers.

Medium to Long- Term Recommendations

- **Safe Streets & Traffic Calming:** Deploying "Safety-First" design and infrastructure to reduce corridor speeds and protect pedestrians.
- **Connectivity & Gap Closure:** Eliminating mobility barriers by completing and enhancing sidewalks for seamless resident access.
- **Climate Justice & Urban Greening:** Scaling tree-planting and canopy coverage along key corridors to mitigate extreme heat.
- **Systems Change & Policy Integration:** Implementing relevant policy recommendations established in the adopted Southwest Fresno Specific Plan
- **Place-Based Equity:** Institutionalizing sustained, long-term investment specifically for the Southwest Fresno neighborhoods.

Acknowledgements



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WALK AUDIT MAP ROUTE



1
ROUTE



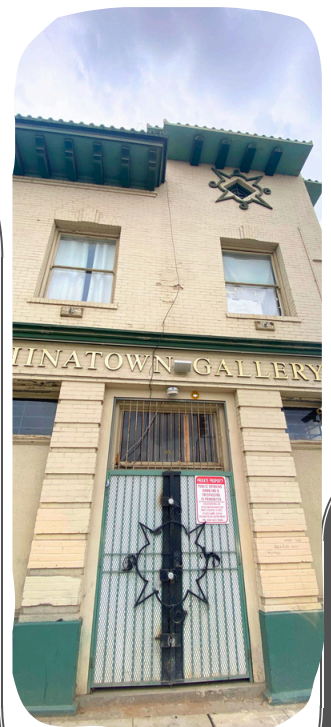
ROUTE
2



3
ROUTE



ROUTE
4



- 1** HISTORIC KEARNEY BOULEVARD & CORRIDOR ROADS
- 2** FRESNO STREET TO SOUTHWEST WALKING TRAIL
- 3** FRESNO STREET TO DOWNTOWN CREST THEATRE
- 4** FRESNO STREET TO HISTORIC CHINATOWN



APPROACH

Community - led walk, roll, and observed their surroundings

PARTICIPATION

75+ residents, youth, elders, caregivers, organizational partners

DATA COLLECTION TOOL

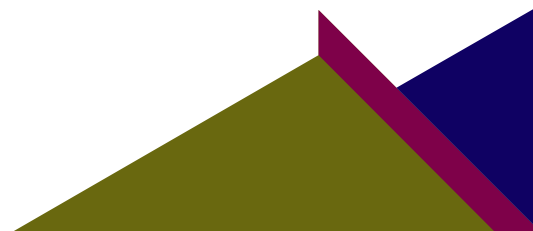
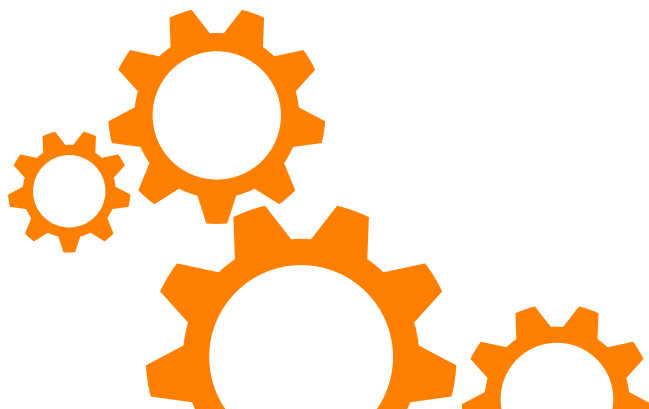
Uses qualitative surveying, photos, and debrief circles

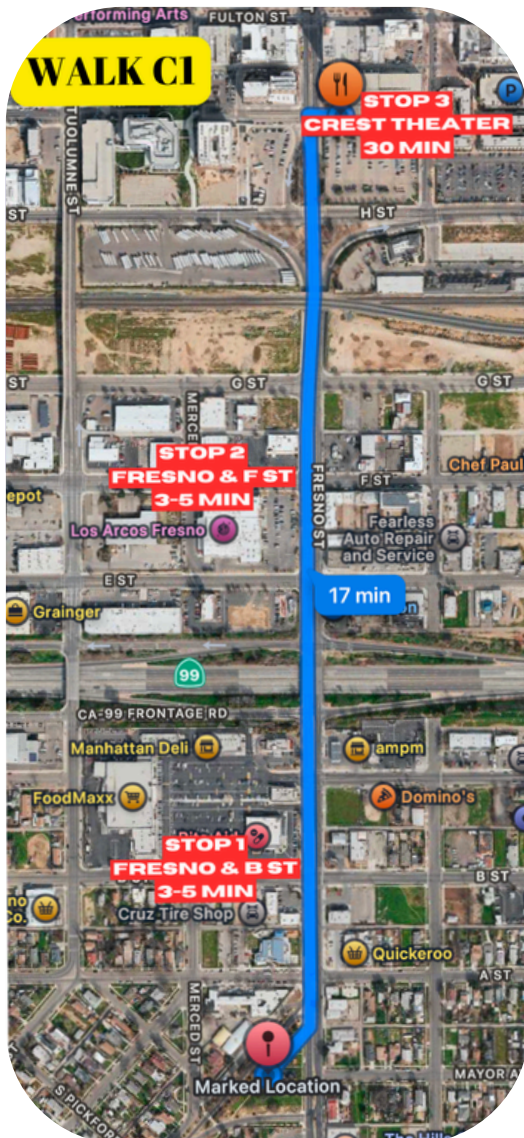


Route 2:

Fresno Street to Southwest Walking Trail

- ✓ **High traffic speeds along Fresno Street**
- ✓ **Improved walkability at the trail entrance compared to the corridor**
- ✓ **Safety concerns near crossings along Cesar Chavez**
- ✓ **Residential streets highlighted both community care and infrastructure gaps**





Route 3:

Fresno Street to Downtown Crest Theater

- ✓ Visible contrast in infrastructure quality from Southwest Fresno to Downtown
- ✓ Better street design, lighting, and signage as participants approached the Crest Theater
- ✓ Mixed responses related to equity and resource distribution



Route 4:

Fresno Street to Historic Chinatown

- ✓ Transitional development environment
- ✓ Construction of new underpass highlighting future investment
- ✓ Safety concerns navigating around construction zones
- ✓ Frustration and hope around Chinatown revitalization