

Adams County Creating Healthy Communities Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition Active Transportation Walk Audit Report 2021

Moores Road, Seaman, Ohio

SIDEWALK PIECES

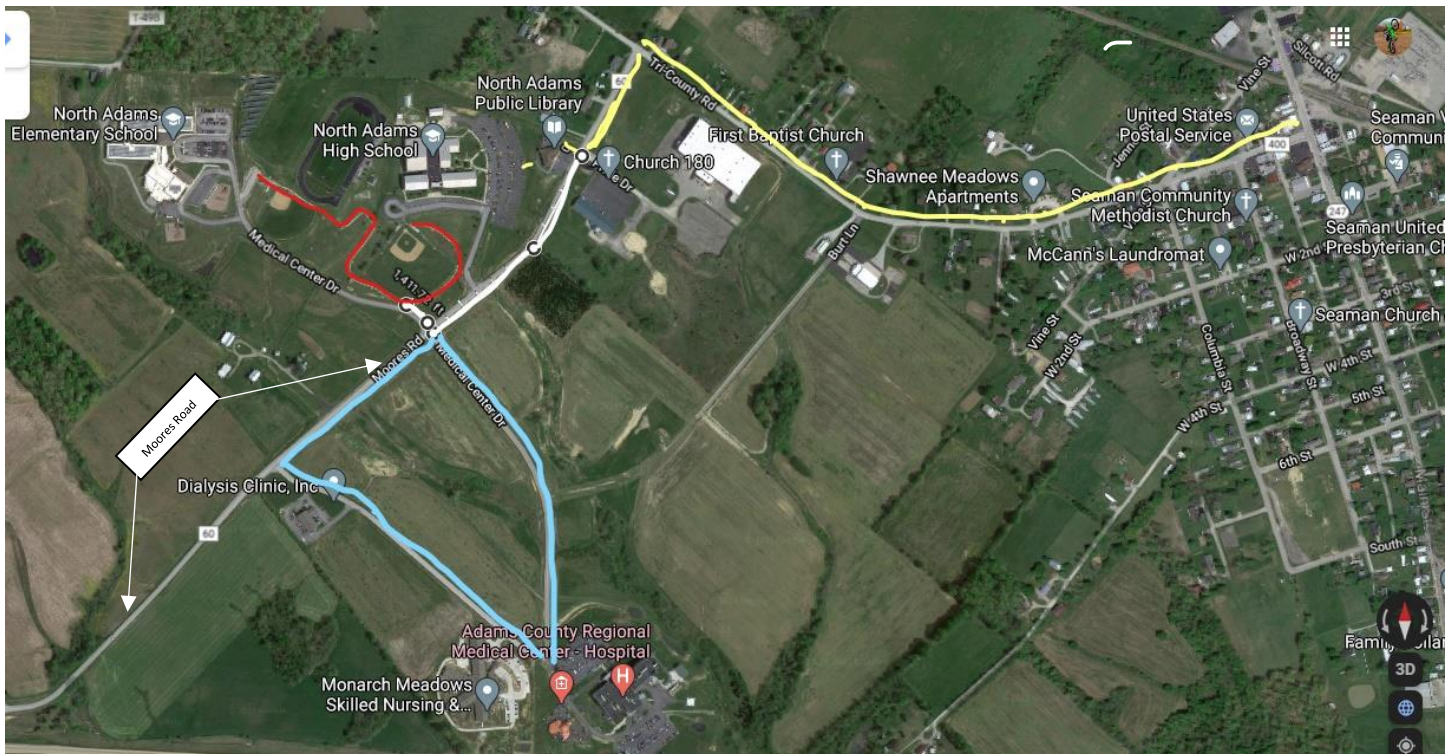
Yellow: existing sidewalk coming from town center ends at Church 180. A small access sidewalk was poured from Moores Road at Church 180 to Library parking lot, and from behind Library to school parking lot in years past.

Red: Existing paved fitness trail that goes all the way back to the Elementary School.

Walk Audit will encompass this section:

White: connect sidewalk ending at Church 180 to Medical Center Drive, and a small access sidewalk from Moores Road to existing Fit Trail Walk.

Light Blue: Long term goal (3-year plan) is to complete Pedestrian Infrastructure to connect Adams County Regional Medical Center to Village Center.



Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following ACHWC members/partners who participated in and developed this Active Transportation Walk Audit Report:

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Introduction

The Active Transportation Walk Audit Report found here focuses on pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the Village of Seaman, specifically Moores Road between Pride Drive and Medical Center Drive. The Adams County Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program facilitated the development of this plan and was led by members of the Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition (ACHWC).

Active Transportation is an umbrella term for all the ways people can get around without using a motorized vehicle – walking or biking, using mobility assistance devices (such as wheelchairs and scooters), buggies, skating or skateboarding, and more. Physically active forms of transportation play a crucial role in improving community health. The term active transportation reinforces that bicycling and walking are valid forms of transportation, not just forms of recreation. Active transportation planning involves a comprehensive approach to the transportation system which recognizes the importance of active transportation in accessing public transit and addresses associated infrastructure like bike racks and wheelchair ramps.

Inclusivity is essential. People with disabilities are often required to travel for work, medical appointments, and for social outings. Environmental features can support or hinder participation in important activities like walking, particularly for people with disabilities.

Supporting active transportation is one way communities can help make the active choice the easy choice for their residents, by providing comfortable, activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations. Active transportation can provide many community benefits, even beyond personal mobility, such as public health, economic development, quality of life, and environmental quality.

To obtain these benefits, it is important to invest in the infrastructure and programs that support pedestrian infrastructure and other forms of active transportation. Assessing walkability and developing an agenda for change is a first step towards that investment.

Goals

The Adams County Creating Healthy Communities Program (aka Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition) is dedicated to helping facilitate the creation of safe, well designed, inclusive places for people to walk by following the principles of safety, comfort and connectivity.

It is widely known that healthy, successful communities need pedestrian infrastructure. People benefit when there are activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations such as parks, schools, grocery stores, restaurants, healthcare facilities, business centers and work sites.

Our goal in completing this walk audit and creating this report is to facilitate changes in Seaman. Suggested improvements will improve safety and increase physical activity for those citizens as evidenced by an increase in one (1) Pedestrian Infrastructure Intervention:

- Infrastructure improvements that support pedestrian transportation
- Improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and people with disabilities
- Increase physical activity

All of these measures make it more convenient, faster, safer and more welcoming for people to walk to community destinations.

Existing Conditions Analysis

For the Village of Seaman walk audit, the focus was on Moores Road, between Pride Drive and Medical Center Drive, which encompasses the entrances to North Adams High School and North Adams Elementary School. This area of roadway also includes the public library, a church and entrance to a partially empty factory building.

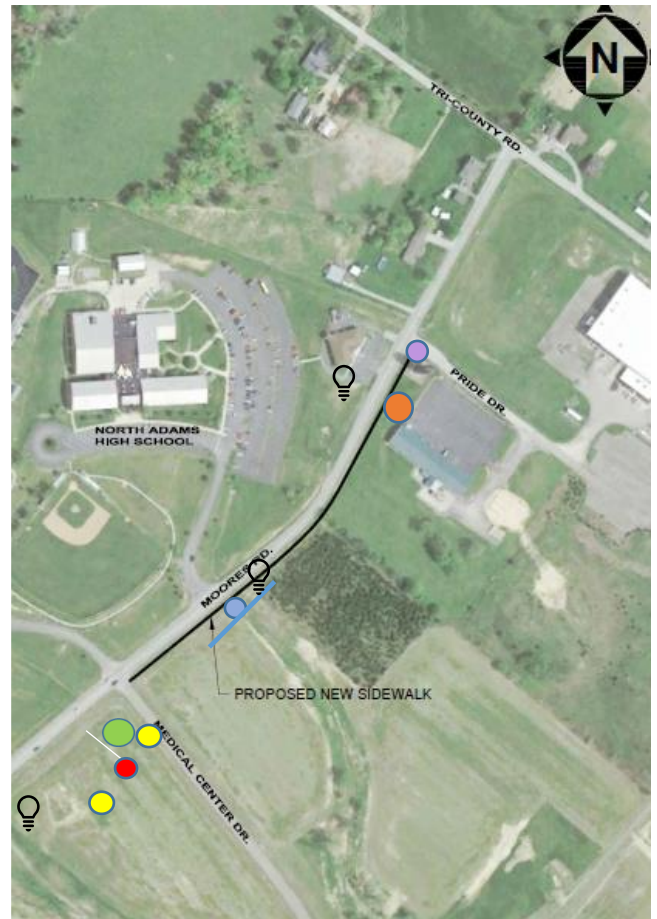
During this audit, numerous concerns were noted:

1. A 4-ft wide sidewalk coming from the Village Center ends just after crossing Pride Drive.
2. No safe pedestrian or bicycle access from the ending of the above mentioned sidewalk to either school without walking on Moores Road or crossing into a busy High School parking lot.
3. The only crosswalk was one at Pride Drive that connects over to the public library, and although truncated domes were present, the crosswalk is misaligned with one of the truncated domes and is angled.
4. One truncated dome was chipped.
5. Gravel present on current sidewalk and truncated domes.
6. While walking south on Moores Road, there is a significant ditch line on the Church 180 property that is reported to be for possible overflow of a nearby water tower.
7. Heavy sloping was noted in one section.
8. There is a culvert pipe that could pose a problem if the new sidewalk is not positioned close enough to the roadway. If it is, the culvert will not need to be extended.
9. There is a significant dip in the road further south on Moores Road before you get to Medical Center Drive that might cause a problem for a crosswalk, so positioning of the crosswalk will be critical.
10. It was noted that there were two lights about 1000 ft apart, on this stretch of road.
11. Note was made by the County Engineer that this road is scheduled for repaving and repainting prior to the beginning of school year 2021-2022, so this is a great time to be looking at adding a sidewalk here.
12. Note was made by Mr. Wolfe that there is a ditch/drainage issue across Moores Road, on the School property, that when it rains hard, the ditch overflows and crosses the road, and could impact the sidewalk. Discussion with County Engineer and School officials ensued regarding this issue.
13. Question arose on the positioning of current road signs and position of a sidewalk. There are multiple road signs along this road, very near the location of the proposed sidewalk.
14. Sight distance for crosswalk was done by Deputy Engineer.



Recommendations/Interventions

1. Construct 5-foot wide ADA compliant sidewalk connecting the end of existing sidewalk and ending at Medical Center Drive (noted by black line on map).
\$50,000.00, sidewalk, **paid through CHC grant**
2. Install connector sidewalk on the west side of Moores Road at entrance to Elementary School, connecting to existing paved Fitness Trail.
\$ 4,950.00, sidewalk connector from Moores Road to Fit Trail, **paid through CHC grant**
3. Install new crosswalk at Medical Center Drive, over to new connecting sidewalk, for safe egress to Elementary School or High School.
\$789.00 paint/labor, **paid through CHC grant**
4. Repair ditchline on west side of Moores Road that overflows and may cause damage to new sidewalk (noted by blue line).
\$ 10,140.02, labor for drainage issue, culvert, 2 catch basins & materials on west side of Moores Road, **paid by Adams County Engineer's Office**
5. Install lighted, blinking crosswalk signs, since this crosswalk will be a new environmental change in that area.
\$ 3,192.90, two lighted/flashing pedestrian crossing signs, **paid through CHC grant**
6. Repair misaligned truncated dome at Pride Drive that crosses over to Library.
7. Install proper drainage for water tower overflow so as to maintain integrity of the new sidewalk.
\$ 4,000.00, emergency water tower drainage project, **paid by Village of Seaman**
8. Consider installing more lighting on Moores Road.



Project expenses incurred by Village:

\$ 4,000.00 + reinstalling 3(?) road signs

Project expenses incurred by other entities:

\$73,782.92

Photo Documentation at Walk Audit



Follow-up

1. Implementation

- a. All recommendations come as a result of a March 31, 2021, walk audit performed by members/partners of the Adams County Creating Communities Program Coalition (aka Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition), along with members of the Ohio Valley School District Transportation and Safety Departments, and two representatives from the Seaman Village Council, to be used as a working document for pedestrian infrastructure upgrades.
- b. These recommendations will be submitted to the Seaman Village Council and the OVSD Transportation & Safety Departments.
- c. This report will be presented to the Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition.

2. Funding Strategies

The Adams County Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program additional funding award will fund recommendation #1. The Adams County Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program and provide funding for completion of the connecting sidewalk for recommendation 2.

Recommendations 3 and 5 will be completed through the Adams County Engineer's repaving and painting plan, as CHC will purchase the pedestrian crossing signs and the Engineer's Office will paint the crosswalk and install the signs. Recommendation 4 has been taken care of by the Adams County Engineer's Office, as a result of this audit. Recommendation 7 was paid for by the Village of Seaman, performed by the concrete contractor at the request and specifics of the Village.

Recommendations 6 and 8 will be brought to the attention of the Adams County Engineer Office, the township Trustees, and Village of Seaman Council for their future consideration, as this road is positioned in a complex manner, partially on County property and partially on Village/Township property.

3. Maintenance Strategies

The Village of Seaman is and will be responsible for all maintenance of the new Moores Road sidewalk improvements, as with all other sidewalks and infrastructure within the Village. The OVSD will be responsible for maintaining the connector sidewalk from Moores Road to the paved Fitness Trail.

4. Performance Measures

Periodic key informant interviews, direct observation and photographs of the interventions before and after improvement will be recorded. Marketing of the improved pedestrian infrastructure will include press releases and social media campaigns, per ACHWC usual protocol.

Conclusion

On Wednesday, March 31, 2021, ten (10) members and 4 guests of the Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition completed a walk audit on Moores Road, in the Village of Seaman, specifically between Pride Drive and Medical Center Drive. The purpose was to facilitate discussion and action regarding the planning, building, and improvement of transportation systems and infrastructure to make it safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

Recommendations resulting from this walk audit, listed on page 4, have been prioritized and interventions that can be completed through funding from the Adams County Creating Healthy Communities Program funding (#s 1 and 2) have been completed. Intervention #4 was completed and paid for by the Adams County Engineer's Office on May 13, 2021. Intervention #s 3 & 5 will be completed with a repaving & painting project for Moores Road, funded through the Adams County Engineer's Office, later in 2021. #s 6 & 8 will be at the discretion of the Village, County and/or Township. Intervention #7 was completed by the concrete construction contractor who poured the sidewalk, funded by the Village of Seaman.

Incidentally, intervention #4 was completed by a contractor who had been at a pre-job quote meeting just prior to this Walk Audit, and although they were not awarded the job for the Moores Road sidewalk project, they were secured by the Adams County Engineer's Office for this job. This issue was brought to light during the walk audit by the OVSD Facilities Manager. Per the Facilities Manager, "It's a fair statement to say this would not have happened (the repair) were it not for this project, or at least the meeting that day. I've been trying to get that fixed for years."



It has been a pleasure working with and assisting the Village of Seaman in making infrastructure improvements that will build a community that supports physical activity and provide a safe and accessible route of travel for people of all abilities.

Photo Documentation of Completed Sidewalk Project

