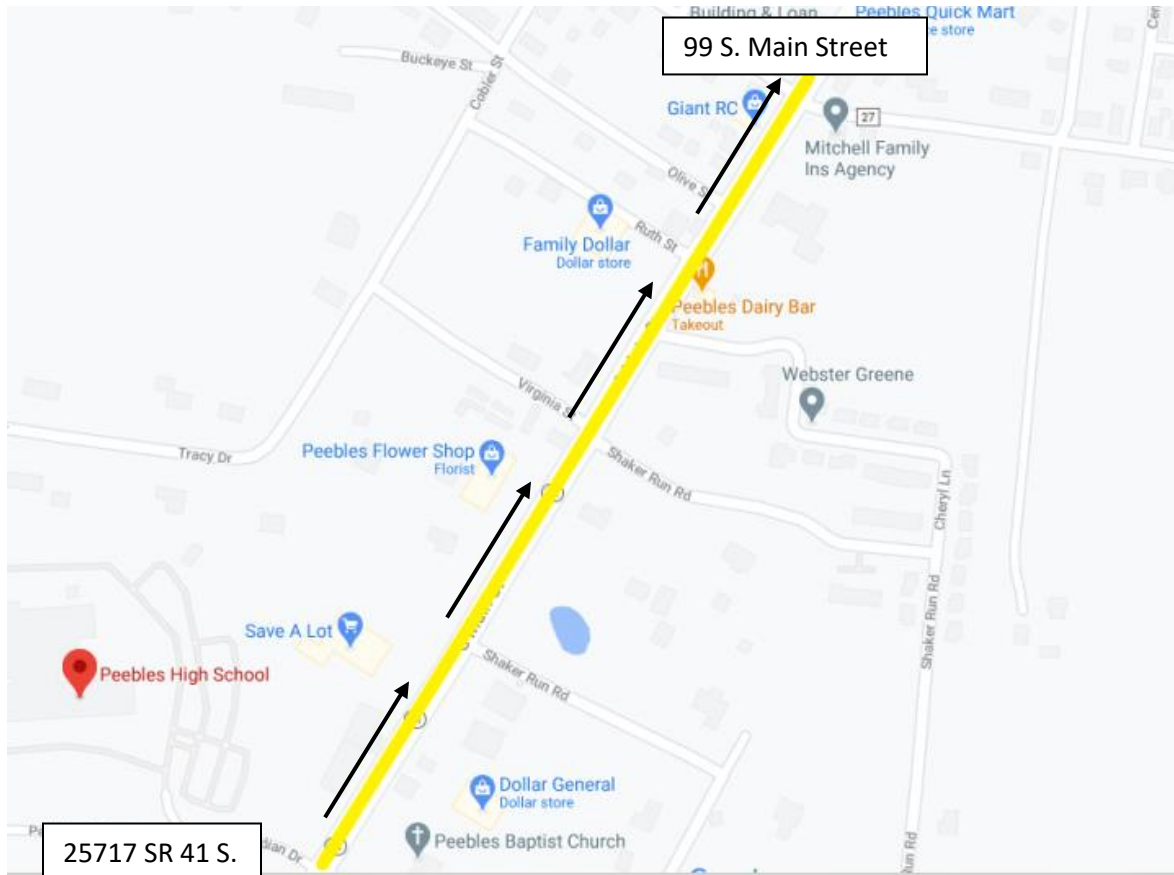


# Adams County Creating Healthy Communities Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition Active Transportation Walk Audit Report 2020

## 25717 SR 41 to 99 S. Main Street, Peebles, Ohio



## Acknowledgements

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

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### Sponsors:

Ohio Department of Health  
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## Introduction

The Active Transportation Walk Audit Report found here focuses on pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the Village of Peebles. 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.

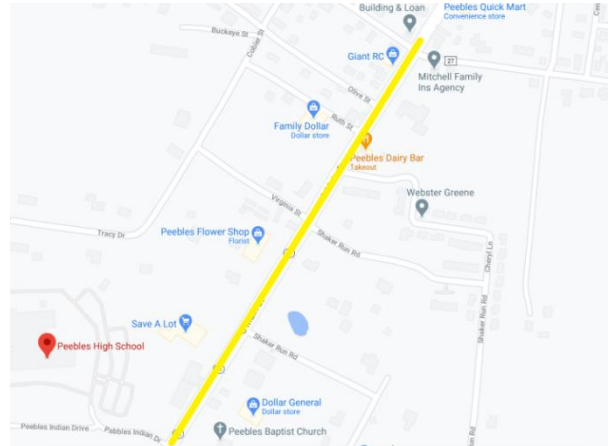
Our goal in completing this walk audit and creating this report is to facilitate changes in Peebles. Suggested improvements will improve safety and increase physical activity for those citizens as evidenced by an increase in one (1) Pedestrian Infrastructure Intervention:

- 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 Peebles walk audit, we focused on the South Main Street/State Route 41, consisting of that route between the intersection at Chautauqua Street/Steam Furnace Road to the entrance to Peebles High School. This area of roadway includes several businesses and a bus stop that occurs multiple times during the day.

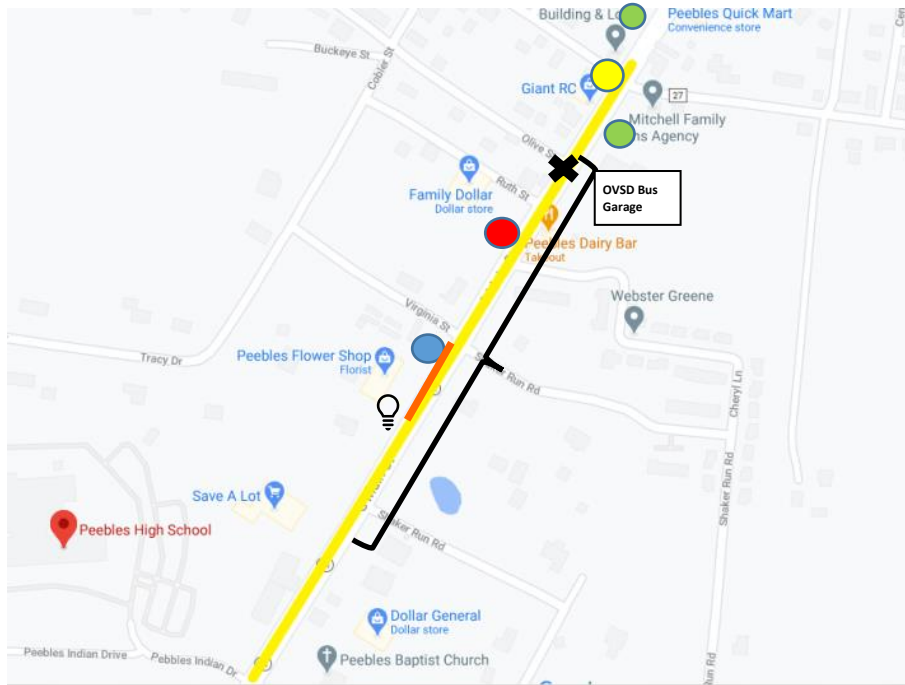


During this audit, numerous concerns were noted:

1. Overall disrepair of the sidewalks, including cracked, uneven pavement, angled/sloped surfaces, holes, etc. from Peebles High School to junction of SR41 & Steam Furnace Rd.
2. Lack of high visibility painted crosswalk at SR42 & Steam Furnace.
3. No pedestrian crossing signs.
4. Olive Street crosswalk doesn't line up appropriately/squarely so that a visually impaired person would not access the ramp directly across from the starting point at the right place.
5. Uneven transition from driveways/streets to sidewalks, particularly at Ruth Street, making it difficult for people with disabilities to safely access.
6. Debris/brush/foilage impeding access on sidewalk.
7. Very poorly lit section of sidewalk through entire length of audit.
8. No truncated domes on either side of Virginia Street.
9. Very rough area at village water plant access road due to blacktop poured over sidewalk.
10. Big hole at fence at Peebles Flower Shop, making sidewalk unstable.
11. No crosswalk at SR 41 and junction with Peebles Schools entrance
12. No sidewalk in front of the former gas station between Ruth St. and Olive St.

While on the audit, students from the Peebles Schools were dismissed. One crossed SR 41 at the intersection of the Peebles Schools driveway, with no crosswalk. Students jumped up onto the roadway, around the debris/brush impeding the sidewalk, cross country runners reported it was very hard to run due to the unevenness & sloping of the sidewalk, and a bus stop in front of the OVSD bus garage showed some students walking through private landscaping to access their route home, as well as this bus stop being well within one half mile from the school, making the case that this bus stop may want to be evaluated for efficiency, safety and necessity. Parents parked in the Bus Garage Parking Lot and were asked where they lived, in relation to the bus stop. The overwhelming majority reported living in the adjacent housing complex or within three blocks.

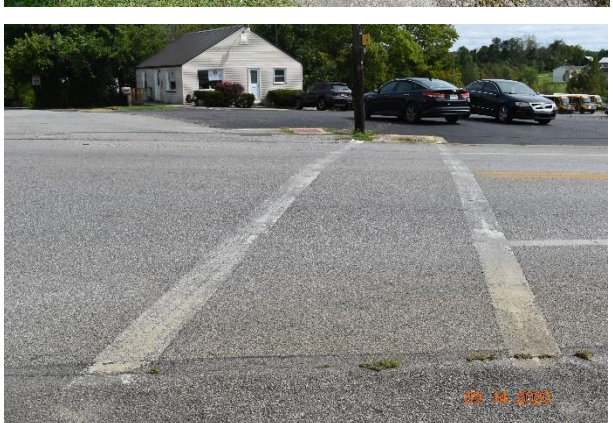
## Recommendations



1. Paint crosswalk at junction of SR 41 and Steam Furnace Road.
2. Install pedestrian crossing signs at SR41 and Steam Furnace Road.
3. Remove blacktop that covers sidewalk at village water plant access.
4. Trim debris/brush between Virginia Street and Peebles Flower Shop.
5. Install guard rail at SR 41 from Ruth Street to the entrance to Peebles Flower Shop for safety purposes.
6. Replace entire sidewalk from Save-a-Lot Food Store to Olive Street.
7. Eliminate bus stop at OVSD Bus Garage, since most bus riders live in adjacent Webster Glen.
8. Install better street lighting in the area between Virginia Street and Save-a-Lot.



# Photo Documentation





## Follow-up

### 1. Implementation

- a. All recommendations come as a result of a September 14, 2020, 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 Peebles Village Council, to be used as a working document for pedestrian infrastructure upgrades.
- b. These recommendations will be submitted to the Peebles 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 and the Village of Peebles will take care of recommendations 1, 2, 3, & 4. Recommendation 7 was addressed by the Ohio Valley School District and will implement that bus stop elimination as soon as all notifications are sent out.

Recommendations 5 & 6 will require substantial funding. This sidewalk was actually installed in 2010, through a Safe Routes to School grant. The Village of Peebles, OVSD and the ACHWC will be looking into this same funding, as well as possible Community Development Block Grant funding in 2021.

### 3. Maintenance Strategies

The Village of Peebles is and will be responsible for all maintenance of these pedestrian infrastructure improvements, as with all other sidewalks and infrastructure within the Village.

### 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 Monday, September 14, 2020, ten (10) members and guests of the Adams County Health & Wellness Coalition completed a walk audit within the Village of Peebles, specifically along SR 41 between Steam Furnace Road and the entrance to Peebles Schools. 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 with the Village of Peebles and the Ohio Valley School District and interventions that can be completed through funding from the Adams County Creating Healthy Communities Program funding (#s 1, 2, 3 & 4) will be completed by year end 2020. Intervention #s 5 & 6 will require additional funding that will be researched and sought at the wishes of the Village of Peebles. Intervention #7 is already in progress, with completion anticipated as soon as possible.

Incidentally, it was learned after this walk audit that the parking lot just north of the bus garage would soon be the site for Kroger Click List for Peebles. This could cause more traffic in the area, and particularly in a “pass through” students use when they get dropped off at this bus stop. This information corroborates the decision to eliminate the bus stop here.

It has been a pleasure working with and assisting the Village of West Union 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.