



## PLAN: these questions will guide you to develop your own Talking Streets walk

### **What key issue, related to the use, experience or design of streets, do you want to unpack or understand further?**

This can be specific to an area or may be a more general question about street design that interests you. This can be an issue you have noticed or that someone has raised in a news article or on social media.

### **Who are the people that you should be speaking to about this issue?**

This could include community organisations, city improvement districts, residents, built environment professionals, academics, students and institutions. Make a list of these with names, contact details (phone and email) and related organisations.

### **Who can you partner with to develop and host this Talking Streets walk?**

It is valuable to work with someone who is knowledgeable about the issue or the area in which you are hosting Talking Streets. This person can help explain to participants on the day why this issue is important and how the situation may be improved. Meet up with this person to discuss ideas for the walk and the main issues you have identified.

### **What sort of activity can you do while on the walk to engage participants on the topic or issue and learn more about it?**

This activity could be a game, a walking audit, a series of discussion points as you walk, or anything else. Take a look at the Open Streets website to see what activities have been used at previous [Talking Streets](#) walks.

### **What is the purpose of this walk? Is it to educate people and raise awareness, to analyse a street, or contribute towards a change in policy related to the issue?**

This will determine how you curate people's engagement with the street and issue and will help you draft appropriate questions.

### **Is there a specific place or street where this issue is evident or that you can use to illustrate the challenges or opportunities for this issue?**

The idea of Talking Streets is that it allows us to experience first hand what it is we are discussing; stimulating our minds to engage on the issue.

### **Have you identified a route to walk?**

The route should be between 1.5km and 2km, or 30 to 45 minutes for a slow walk. A circular route is best so that you can return to the same point where people arrived. You could also split the group up and walk more than one route to compare experiences. We suggest you walk this route before the day in case there are any issues you need to be aware of or want to highlight.

### **Have you prepared a few questions to prompt discussion on the issue?**

Having a discussion time (15 to 20 minutes) during or after the walk can be a good opportunity to allow people to reflect on what they have experienced (Was there anything surprising or unexpected? Did they learn something?) and to capture the more general comments on the topic.

## SPREAD THE WORD: recruit your participants

When you have answered the planning questions, draft an invitation to send out to all those you identified as potentially interested people.

You can also print out a few copies and stick them on community noticeboards and shops in the area. This invitation should include:

- The area or street the walk is related to
- The time, date and place where you will meet
- A short description of the issue you want to address
- Mention of who you are partnering with for the walk
- A short description of what a 'Talking Streets' walk is

It may help to make a few phone calls before sending out the invitations to those organisations you would like to join you.

## ON THE DAY: host a successful walk

Meet up with your co-hosts half an hour beforehand so that you can go over the agenda, structure and any final details. It may be helpful to have an attendance register to capture all participants' details, especially if you want to contact them afterwards.

Remember to take some photos and capture the conversations so that you can keep a record to share with others and to build upon at a later stage.

We want to hear your thoughts so please let us know if you decide to organise your own Talking Streets. We would be delighted to help answer any other questions you might have and receiving feedback on your experience can help us improve the tool. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact or visit us: [info@openstreets.co.za](mailto:info@openstreets.co.za) / [www.openstreets.org.za](http://www.openstreets.org.za)

*Special thanks to Rebecca Cameron for her prominent role in putting this toolkit together.*

