

Street Audits



Summary Document | El Paso - 2021

In March 2021, street audits were conducted throughout El Paso to gather information about sidewalk conditions, safety perceptions, and driver behavior. One detailed street audit was conducted in each of the eight districts of El Paso.

“Sidewalk is inaccessible due to construction.”

Continuous sidewalks - Seventy-five percent (75%) of the audit results indicated that sidewalks were not continuous. The other 25% noted sidewalks were blocked by cars and poles, inaccessible due to construction, broken, cracked, and had trip hazards.

Sidewalk barriers and sidewalk width - Sixty-three (63%) percent of the audits reported that there was no barrier (grass, trees, parked cars) separating the sidewalk from the street. Thirty-eight (38%) percent of audits reported that the sidewalks were wide enough for two people to easily walk together side-by-side, which supports social resilience by encouraging walking or exercising with friends and family.

Driver behavior - 25% of drivers seemed familiar with pedestrians and seemed to respect street signs. Thirty-eight (38%) percent of drivers seemed hostile, made unexpected turns, and did not yield to people walking during the street audit. Sixty-three (63%) percent of drivers appear to be speeding, with some street audits noting that this “[made] the walk uncomfortable” and “no one stopped at the crossing when a pedestrian was about to cross.”

“Although there is a shared use path, there is no shade, rest stops, or any other amenity to make the walk more comfortable and inviting.”

Small changes, such as paint and landscaping, can help address the aforementioned concerns and transform the pedestrian experience (as shown in the renderings below).

“Car speeds are too fast... these crossings are extremely uncomfortable and unsafe.”

