



WELCOME TO ILLINOIS

Presented by The Latino Policy Forum

Purpose



Convened by the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA), the purpose of this new coalition is to provide a space for those responding to the ongoing migrant situation to share information, provide updates, and determine if there are synergies to teamwork.

3,667

arrivals from Central and South America

11 hotels

housing children & families

6 shelters

housing single adults

150+

children enrolled in CPS

Nearly 30+

CBOs on the ground

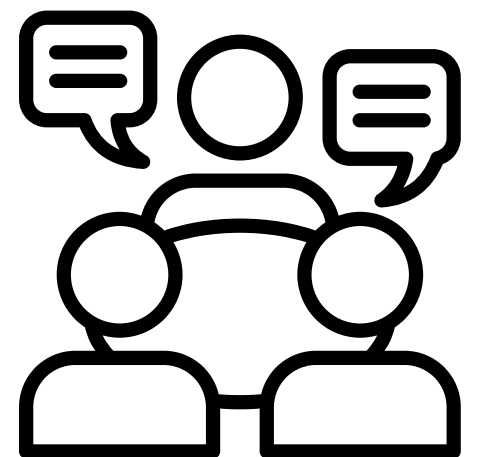
The coalition is an open table and meets biweekly on Wednesdays over Zoom from 8:30 - 10:00 am CT.

Notes are disseminated after each meeting.

Role of the ILA

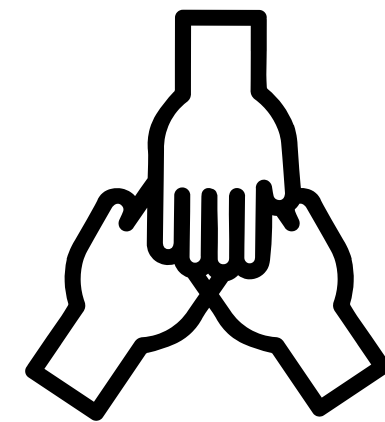
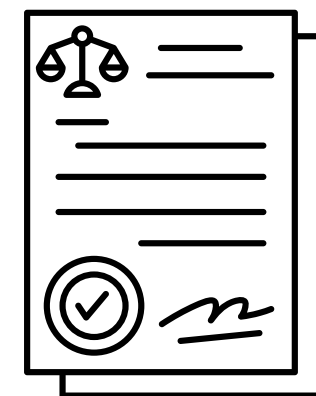
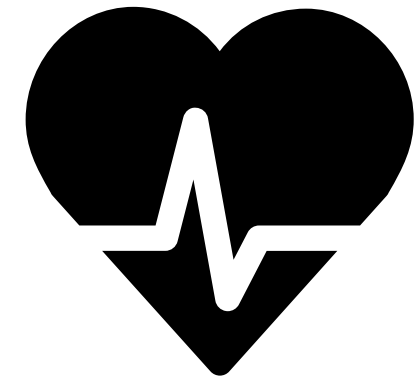


- Convene partner agencies and community organizations that are interested in responding and providing assistance to the migrant situation.
 - ICIRR has a direct contract from IDHS to convene the Welcoming Centers who are providing direct wrap-around services.
 - TRP is providing and organizing information around the legal strategy.
- Gather and disseminate information from coalition meetings, including volunteer and donation opportunities.
- Develop communication strategies highlighting the work of the coalition and organizations working on the ground.
- Monitor changes in policies and programs affecting migrants and service providers.
- Support advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal level.



What are the needs?

- Individualized case management
- Job placement/school enrollment
- Long-term housing support
- Legal assistance
- Services for those arriving and not on buses
- Advocacy



Resources & how to help

- Join our biweekly meetings!
- Share our work on social media and with your communities/networks.
- Visit the Welcome to IL website for how to donate and volunteer:
www.welcometoil.org.
- For legal resources, visit NIJC's website:
<https://immigrantjustice.org/issues/arriving-migrants>.



Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 8:30 am CT via Zoom.

Thank you!

Any questions/comments?
We want to hear from you!

Nina Sedeño

Immigration Policy Analyst

Latino Policy Forum

Email: nsedeno@latinopolicyforum.org



Welcoming with Dignity

Phase I: Resettlement Rollout

Overview

- Introductions
- Welcoming with Dignity: What's been done to date?
- Phase I: Resettlement
- Opportunities for partnership & support

Help
is here



Introduction

- **Dulce Quintero:** Executive Director, Welcoming with Dignity
- **Kirstin Chernawsky:** Director, Resettlement

Help
is here



**Welcoming with Dignity:
What's been done to date?**



Help
is here

Welcoming with Dignity: **Emergency Declaration**

On August 31st, 2022, without notice, Illinois and Chicago received buses sent by the State of Texas, transporting Central and South Americans seeking asylum in the United States. In the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health, safety and welfare, Governor JB Pritzker has [declared the state of Illinois as a disaster area](#) allowing the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan, coordinate State resources, and aid with emergency purchases necessary for response.

- *The declaration excludes “walk-ins” or anyone not arriving en masse via means sponsored by government entities. To date, this means anyone not arriving on a bus from and funded by Texas government entities. These walk-ins, like walk-ins that have come to Chicago and Illinois over many years, are not unexpected and therefore are not covered by a disaster proclamation having come to Chicago and Illinois by other means, whether independently or with help from other individuals or organizations.*

While the disaster proclamation is narrow in its definition, the State continues to support immigrant populations as it always has through:

- [Illinois Welcoming Centers](#)
- [New Americans Initiative \(NAI\)](#)
- [Immigrant Family Resource Program \(IFRP\)](#)
- [Access to Justice](#)
- [Housing support, benefits enrollment, cash assistance](#)



Welcoming with Dignity: **Guiding Principles**

At the Illinois Department of Human Services, we're rooting our response to those seeking asylum in the following principles:

1. A welcomed and dignified reception
2. Promoting resiliency for self-advanced independence
3. Ensuring safety
4. Maintaining the ability to pivot and/or expand
5. Being a good shepherd of state resources
6. Providing equity in our response to other populations that are experiencing homelessness and / or are seeking asylum



Help
is here

Welcoming with Dignity: **What's been done to date**

Our newest arrivals have walked hundreds of miles, navigating great danger through multiple countries, in pursuit of safety and opportunity in the United States. IDHS felt a duty to assist in providing immediate shelter, food, and medical care for each individual and family. To date, we have provided:

- ~ **\$90M** to help welcome and support new arrivals
- **11 hotels** for intermediate housing to 800 families and single women (~ 2,000) individuals
- **Staffing and operational support** at city shelters and hotels
- **At hotels, wraparound supports** including:
 - Community integration case management, benefits enrollment & emergency cash assistance
 - Resettlement case management
 - Partnering with ISBE and local school districts to enroll over 500 children in school
 - Partnering with ISBE, IBHE & ICCB to provide adult education support
- For **both families at hotels and single men** in city shelters (~1200), the state is providing:
 - Up to six-months of emergency rental assistance
 - Legal case management in partnership with the city



Phase I: Resettlement

A photograph of two women embracing warmly. The woman in the foreground has long dark hair and is wearing a purple sweater. The woman behind her has long blonde hair and is wearing a pink sweater. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white hexagonal frame is centered over the image, containing the text 'Help is here' in a white sans-serif font.

Help
is here

Phase I: Resettlement

Under the guiding principles of resilience and self-reliance – based on lessons learned from CBOs operating on the U.S./Mexico border – IDHS aims to empower asylum seekers to make informed decisions about their futures for themselves.

As such, we're now shifting our operations from primarily addressing the immediate needs of those seeking asylum, to prioritizing helping families and individuals find pathways to longer-term resettlement and permanent housing, which includes intensive housing counseling and access to expedited emergency rental assistance.

- Readiness for Independence Analysis
- Resettlement Case Management
- Emergency Rental Assistance



Readiness for Independence
*(A partnership with
Civic Consulting Alliance)*



Survey Background

With the support of Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA), the state & city administered a Readiness for Independence survey to asylum-seeking individuals and families

Data was collected from **877 individuals** (out of ~ 1100 individuals) across 8 city shelter sites, reflecting an ~80% completion rate; and **729 heads of households** (out of ~ 800 families) across 11 state hotel sites, reflecting a ~95% completion rate.

The quick seven-question survey covered two key areas:

- 1. Baseline readiness**, covering questions around public benefits status, cell phone availability, type of ID, and their housing search to date.
- 2. Level of comfort** and potential barriers around resettling.



Key Takeaways



Overall, the “Readiness for Independence” survey showed that **while a majority of individuals have high levels of baseline readiness** (as indicated by public benefits status, possession of cell phone and ID, and whether one has begun looking for housing), the **level of comfort varies with a majority of those individuals feeling uncomfortable with resettling.**

Area	Site	Key Takeaways
Baseline Readiness	City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Benefits Status – this was not captured as part of the survey, but will be critical in resettlement efforts; need to follow-up with individuals. • Cell phone – 75% of individuals have both cellular and Wi-Fi capabilities. • ID - 94% of surveyed individuals have a Chicago CityKey. • Looking for housing – 19% of respondents have begun to look for housing.
	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Benefits Status – 68% of families have been approved for benefits. • Cell phone –75% of families have both cellular and Wi-Fi capabilities. • ID -74% of surveyed families have a photo ID (68% Chicago CityKey and 6% passport from origin country). • Looking for housing –25% of families have begun to look for housing.
Level of Comfort	City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% of respondents said they were very comfortable resettling versus 58% of respondents that said they were very uncomfortable resettling. • 59% of surveyed respondents have not independently resettled due to a lack of income.
	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of families said they were very comfortable resettling versus 47% of families said they were very uncomfortable resettling. • 76% of surveyed families have not independently resettled due to a lack of income.

Readiness Assessment

This is reflected for state only as city was unable to collect public benefits data at this time



N = 692

- 1
Families to prioritize for resettlement counseling
23%
- 2
Hesitant families with baseline resources
48%
- 3
Motivated families in need of additional resources
1.5%
- 4
Families facing the most obstacles
7%

- 84% (Quadrants 1 & 2) have higher levels of baseline readiness and varying levels of comfort.
- Approximately 10% (Quadrants 3 & 4) of families have low levels of baseline readiness. A majority of these families have low comfort levels.

Next Steps

Takeaways: IDHS will prioritize the following site for housing counseling based on the general proportion of respondents who indicate more probable readiness levels:

- **Hotel 1** – 96% have benefits, 85% have cellular devices, 67% have a photo ID, 65% are already looking for housing, and 48% are very or somewhat comfortable considering resettling

While displaying less readiness than Hotel 1, the following sites also indicate probable readiness levels:

- **Hotel 2** – 98% have benefits, 82% have a photo ID, and 46% are very or somewhat comfortable considering resettling
- **Hotel 3** – 83% have benefits, 44% have a photo ID, and 78% are very or somewhat comfortable considering resettling
- **Hotel 4** - 90% have benefits, 99% have a photo ID, and 30% are very or somewhat comfortable considering resettling



**Resettlement Case
Management
&
Emergency Rental Assistance**



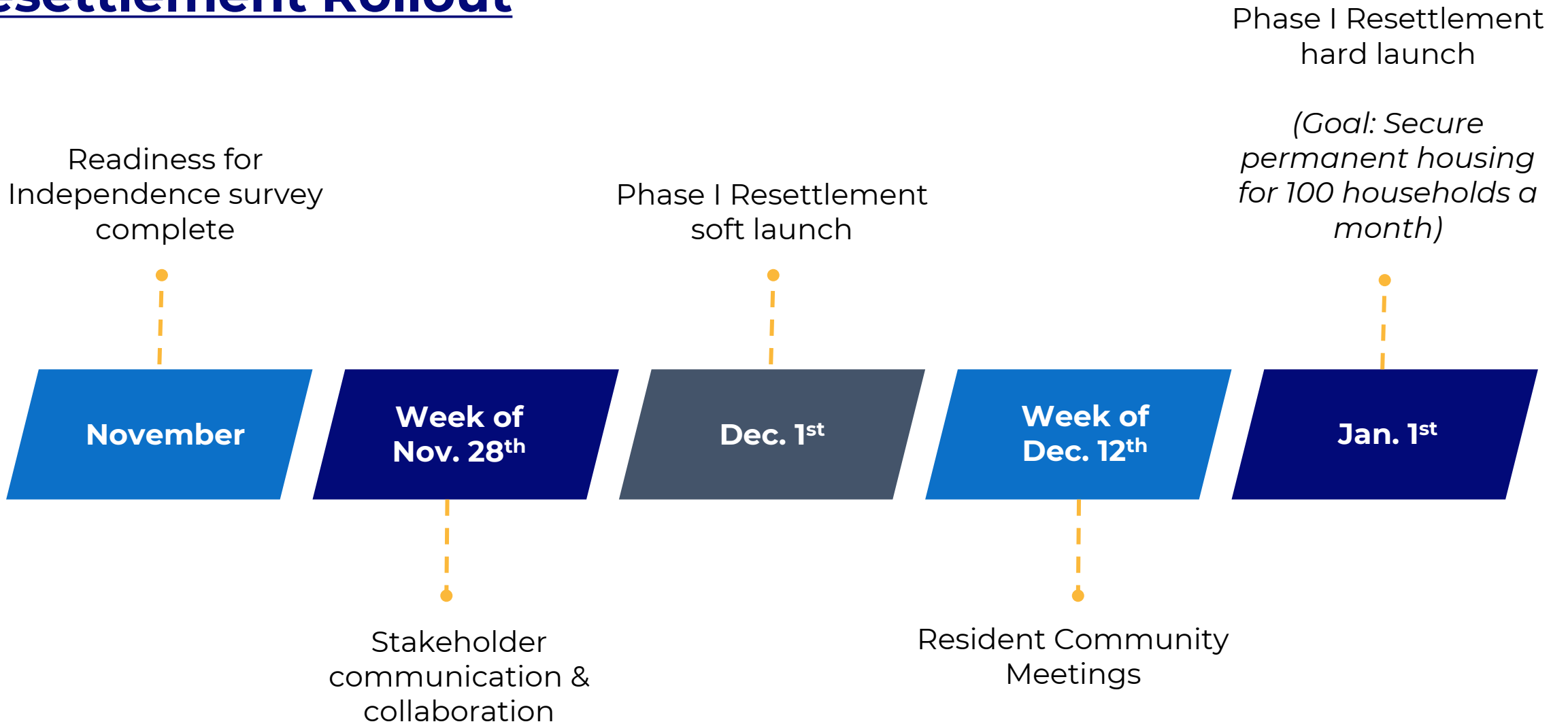
Resettlement Case Management



The state has invested over \$30M in emergency rental assistance and resettlement case management

Catholic Charities	IHDA / HSS Providers	CBOs
		Hotel Community Integration: community, schools, transportation, referrals with medical & legal
Resettlement Case Management: goal-setting, housing needs assessment, US renting education, rental & budget counseling		
<i>Housing Location</i>		
Unit Matching & Lease Negotiation (including Utilities)		
	Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) Application	
	Landlord / Tenant Payments	
		Housing Community Integration: move, furniture, school transfer, community
Ongoing Resettlement Case Management including ERA2 recertification		

Resettlement Rollout



**Opportunities for
Partnership & Support**



Help
is here

Opportunities for Partnership & Support

- **Landlord & Housing Referrals**

Catholic Charities: Marie Jochum
mjochum@catholiccharities.net

- **Federal Advocacy**

- Allocation of additional flexible dollars to Illinois and other welcoming states/cities as we work through many challenges in:
 - Emergency sheltering
 - Short, medium and long-term housing resettlement
 - Legal services for migrants
- Increasing logistical coordination and information sharing with Illinois in future federal efforts requiring migrants being moved to the interior for resettlement, such as planning following the lifting of Title 42



Thank you!

A photograph of two women embracing warmly. The woman in the foreground has long dark hair and is wearing a purple sweater. The woman behind her has long blonde hair and is wearing a pink sweater. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white hexagonal frame is positioned over the women, containing the text 'Help is here' in a white sans-serif font.

Help
is here



PROJECT SIDEWALK

[HTTPS://PROJECTSIDEWALK.ORG](https://projectsidewalk.org)



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

W UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON

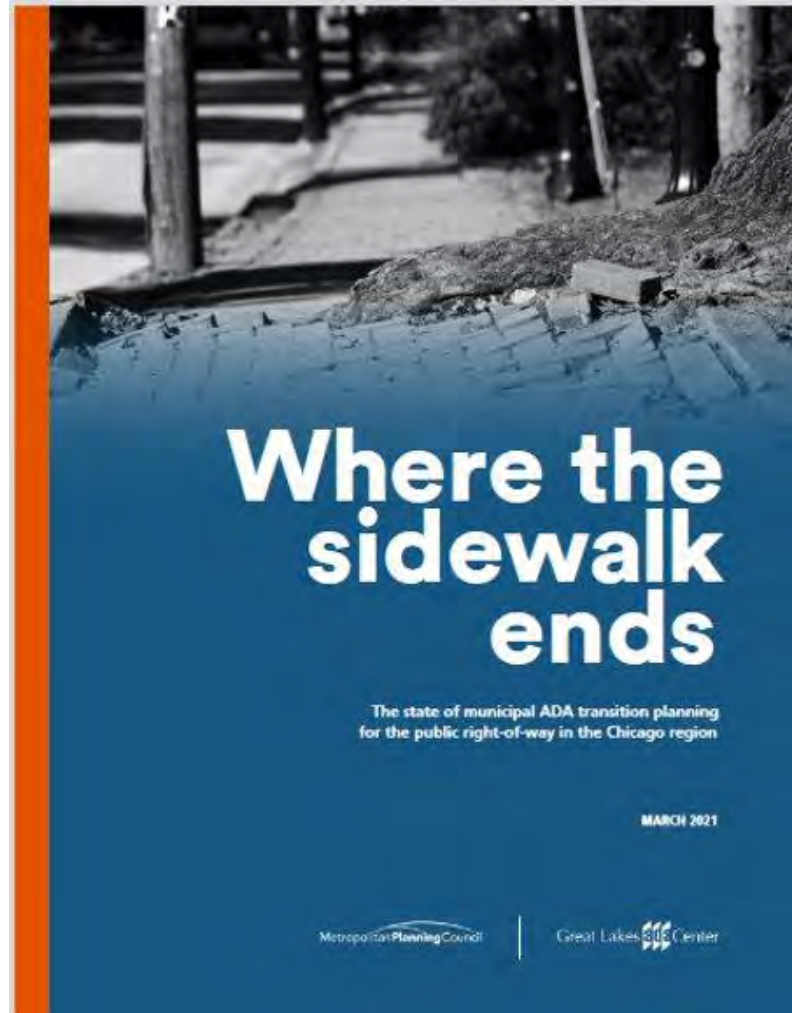
easterseals
all abilities. limitless possibilities.

The Setting

This project seeks to address:

- Numerous pedestrian barriers experienced by people with disabilities^{a,b}
- Lack of data on pedestrian infrastructure and accessibility^c
- Lack of planning and implementation of barrier-removal in the US^a
 - Only 11-13% have plans for barrier-removal

https://www.metroplanning.org/uploads/cms/documents/ensemblemedia_mpc_adatransitionplanreport_compliant.pdf



Sidewalk Data Collection

ADA Plan, city planning/
infrastructure initiatives

Equity Analysis

Barrier removal

Community
engagement/
crowdsourcing

Improved socio-technical tools
for sidewalk assessment

Improved urban accessibility
analysis & visualization tools

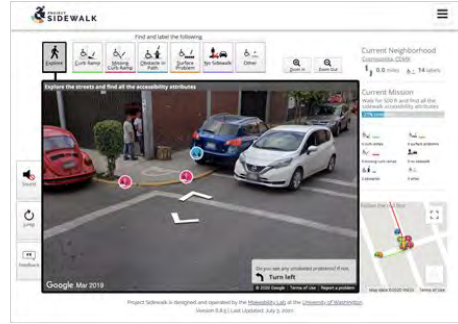
Improved mobility for
people with disabilities and
older adults

More ADA Transition Plans

ONLINE MAP IMAGERY



REMOTE CROWDSOURCING INTERFACES

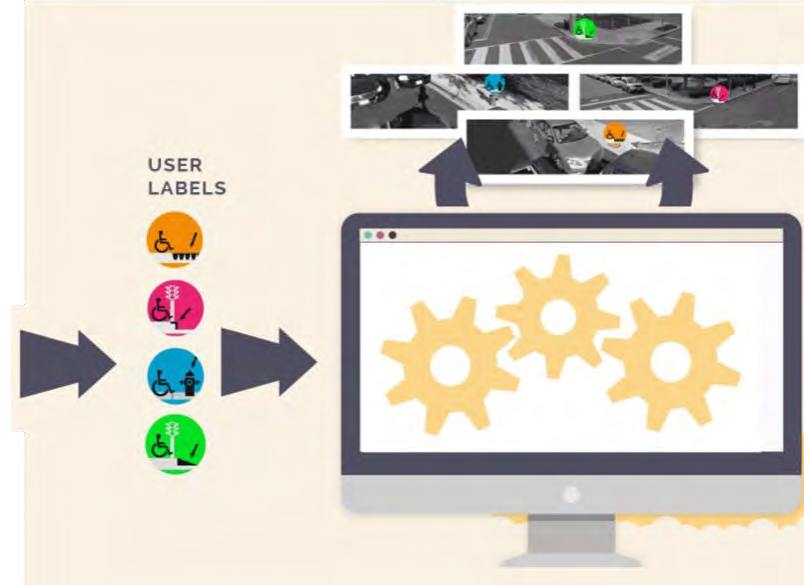


Labeling missions



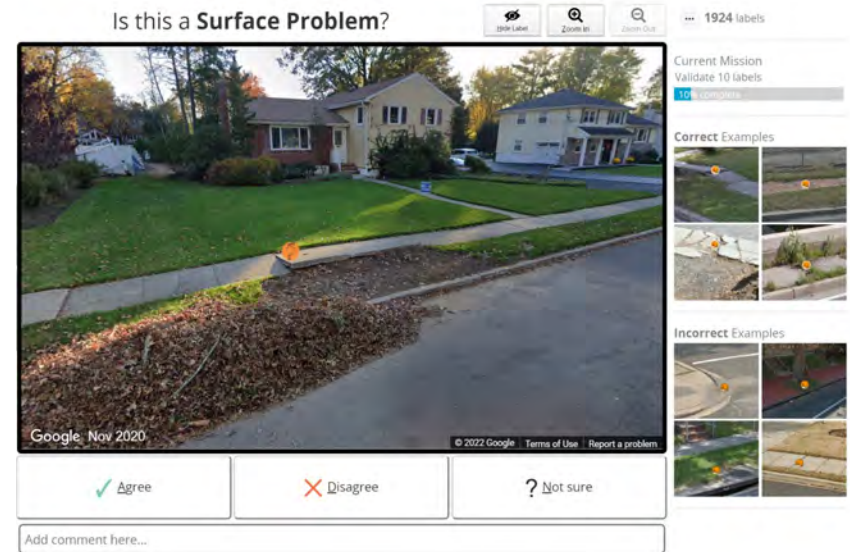
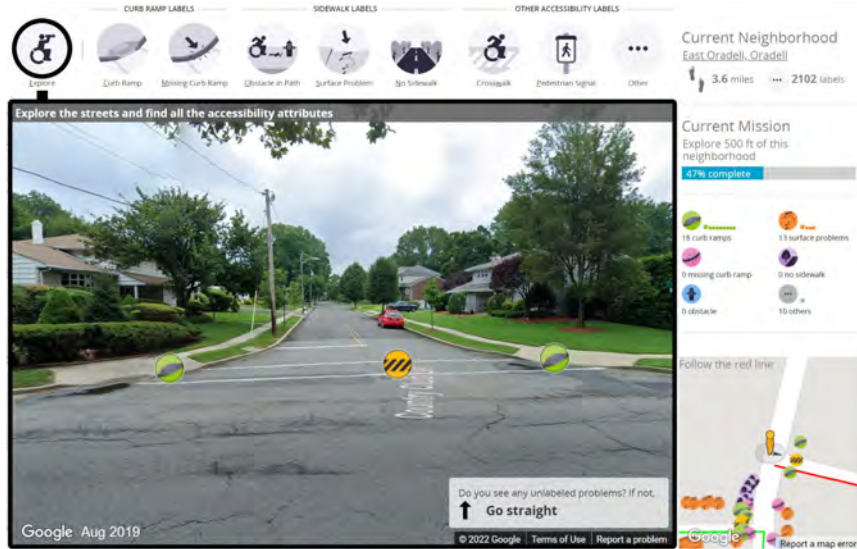
Validation missions

MACHINE LEARNING



Project Sidewalk Missions

Project Sidewalk has two mission types: labeling and validating



1 Find, label, and assess sidewalks

2 Validate & correct other labels

CURB RAMP LABELS

SIDEWALK LABELS

OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS



Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Croswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

Current Neighborhood

[Central Oradell, Oradell](#)

0.0 miles

24 labels



Zoom In



Zoom Out



Sound



Jump



Stuck



Feedback

Explore 250 ft in Central Oradell

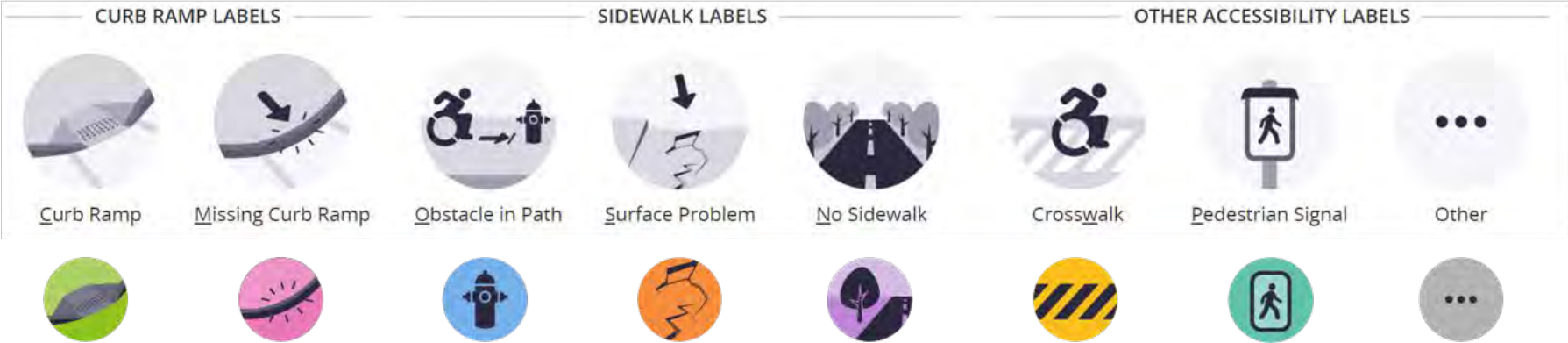


Your mission is to explore 250 ft in Central Oradell and find all the accessibility features that affect mobility impaired travelers!

OK

Sidewalk Auditing Missions

Users look for and label **seven** different parts of the sidewalk environment that impact mobility and accessibility



Example Obstacle Tags

Each label has a set of 4-8 tags

Curb Ramp

Missing Curb Ramp

Obstacle in Path

Surface Problem

No Sidewalk

Crosswalk

Pedestrian Signal

Other

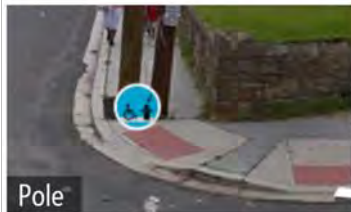
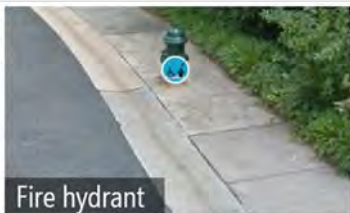


Passable 1 2 3 4 5 Not Passable

Description (optional)

Add Tags: fire hydrant | pole | tree | vegetation | trash/recycling can | construction | sign | height difference | narrow | parked car (u) | parked bike | litter/garbage (x) | parked scooter/motorcycle

Temporary (e.g., construction) OK



Auditing Interface



Retake Tutorial

Start Validating

How to Label

Help

Data ▾

Val Study ▾

Devon Snyder ▾

en-US ▾

CURB RAMP LABELS

SIDEWALK LABELS

OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS



Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Crosswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

Overall Stats

5.61 miles

1,430 labels

97.33% accuracy

Current Neighborhood

Skokie, Val Study

0.69 miles

100 labels

Current Mission

Explore 500 ft of this neighborhood

0% complete



0 curb ramp



0 surface problem



0 missing curb ramp



0 no sidewalk

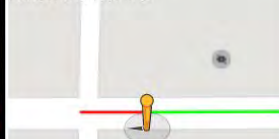


0 obstacle



0 other

Follow the red line



Explore the streets and find all the accessibility attributes



Do you see any unlabeled problems? If not,

Turn left



Zoom In



Zoom Out



Sound



Jump



Stuck



Feedback

Google Aug 2019

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Google



- Retake Tutorial
- Start Validating
- How to Label
- Help
- Data
- Val Study
- Devon Snyder

en-US

LABEL TYPES

Explore CURB RAMP LABELS SIDEWALK LABELS OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS

Explore Curb Ramp Missing Curb Ramp Obstacle in Path Surface Problem No Sidewalk Crosswalk Pedestrian Signal Other

Explore the streets and find all the accessibility attributes

GOOGLE STREET VIEW

Do you see any unlabeled problems? If not, Turn left

Google Aug 2019

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OVERALL STATS

1,450 labels
97.33% accuracy

MISSION STATS

Current Neighborhood: Skokie, Val Study
0.69 miles
100 labels

0 curb ramp	0 surface problem
0 missing curb ramp	0 no sidewalk
0 obstacle	0 other

Follow the red line

MISSION MAP

Google

- Zoom In
- Zoom Out
- Sound
- Jump
- Stuck
- Feedback



Retake Tutorial

Start Validating

How to Label

Help

Data

Val Study

Devon Snyder

en-US



Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Crosswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

CURB RAMP LABELS

SIDEWALK LABELS

OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS

Overall Stats

5.87 miles, 1,457 labels, 97.33% accuracy

Current Neighborhood

Skokie, Val Study, 0.77 miles, 127 labels

Current Mission

Explore 500 ft of this neighborhood, 7% complete

- 0 curb ramp, 0 surface problem, 0 missing curb ramp, 0 no sidewalk, 0 obstacle, 0 other

Follow the red line



- Zoom In, Zoom Out, Sound, Jump, Stuck, Feedback

Explore the streets and find all the accessibility attributes. WHAT KIND OF FEATURE IS THIS? You have reached the end of this route. Finish labeling this intersection then click here to move to a new location.



Retake Tutorial

Start Validating

How to Label

Help

Data

Val Study

Devon Snyder

en-US

CURB RAMP LABELS

SIDEWALK LABELS

OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS



Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Crosswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

Overall Stats

5.87 miles
1,457 labels
97.33% accuracy

Current Neighborhood

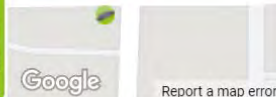
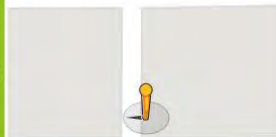
Skokie, Val Study
0.77 miles
127 labels

Current Mission

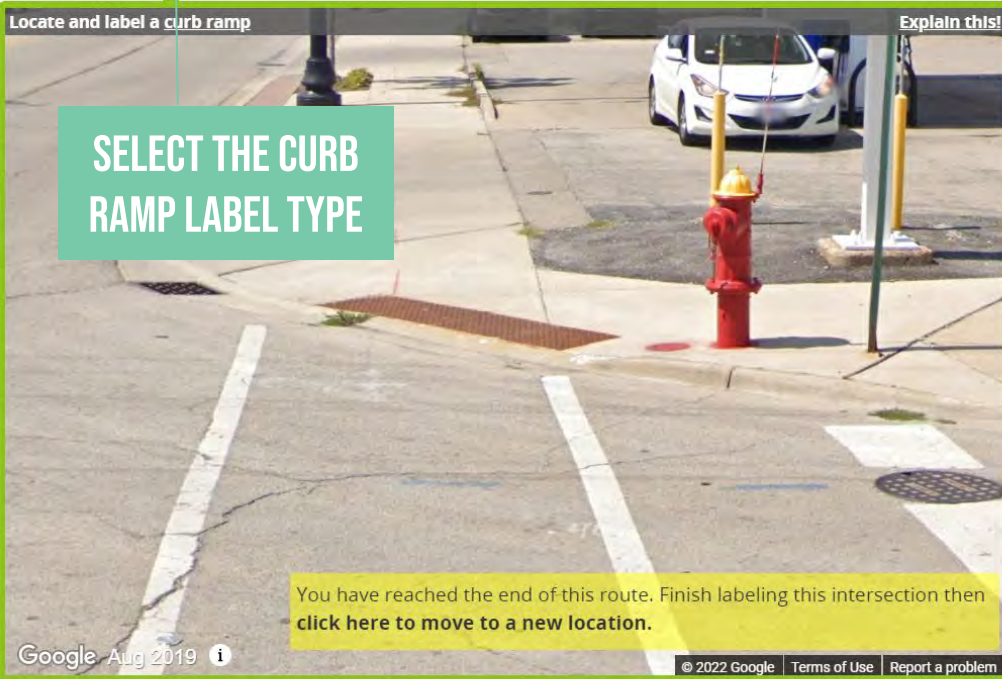
Explore 500 ft of this neighborhood
79% complete

- 0 curb ramp
- 0 surface problem
- 0 missing curb ramp
- 0 no sidewalk
- 0 obstacle
- 0 other

Follow the red line



- Zoom In
- Zoom Out
- Sound
- Jump
- Stuck
- Feedback





Retake Tutorial

Start Validating

How to Label

Help

Data

Val Study

Devon Snyder

en-US



Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Crosswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

CURB RAMP LABELS

SIDEWALK LABELS

OTHER ACCESSIBILITY LABELS

Overall Stats

5.87 miles
1,458 labels
97.33% accuracy

Current Neighborhood

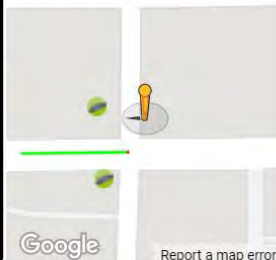
Skokie, Val Study
0.77 miles
128 labels

Current Mission

Explore 500 ft of this neighborhood
7% complete

- 1 curb ramp
- 0 surface problem
- 0 missing curb ramp
- 0 no sidewalk
- 0 obstacle
- 0 other

Follow the red line



- Zoom In
- Zoom Out
- Sound
- Jump
- Stuck
- Feedback

Explore the streets and find all the accessibility attributes

Passable 1 2 3 4 5 Not Passable

Description (optional)

Add Tags: narrow points into traffic steep not level with street
missing tactile warning pooled water
not enough landing space surface problem

Temporary (e.g., construction) OK

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Retake Tutorial

Start Validating

How to Label

Help

Data

Val Study

Devon Snyder

en-US



Explore



Curb Ramp



Missing Curb Ramp



Obstacle in Path



Surface Problem



No Sidewalk



Crosswalk



Pedestrian Signal



Other

Overall Stats

5.87 miles
1,458 labels
97.33% accuracy

Current Neighborhood

Skokie, Val Study
0.77 miles
128 labels

Current Mission

Explore 500 ft of this neighborhood
7% complete

- 1 curb ramp
- 0 surface problem
- 0 missing curb ramp
- 0 no sidewalk
- 0 other

- Zoom In
- Zoom Out
- Sound
- Jump
- Stuck
- Feedback

Explore the streets and find all the accessibility attributes

RATE SEVERITY

Passable 1 2 3 4 5 Not Passable

Description (optional)

Add Tags: narrow, points into traffic, steep, not level with street, missing tactile warning, pooled water, not enough landing space, surface problem

Temporary (e.g., construction) OK

Follow the red line

Report a map error

COMMENTS

TAGS

Validation Interface

Hide Label

Is this an **Obstacle in Path?**

Zoom In Zoom Out

4 labels

Current Mission
Validate 10 labels
40% complete

Obstacle in Path

NOT an Obstacle in Path

Skip

Feedback

✓ Agree

✗ Disagree

? Not sure

The interface displays a central street scene with a blue circular label on the sidewalk. To the right, a grid of six small images shows various potential obstacles like trees, fire hydrants, and street signs. The 'Agree' button is highlighted with a green border.

Hide Label

Is this a **Surface Problem**?

Zoom In

Zoom Out

9 labels

Current Mission

Validate 10 labels

90% complete

Surface Problem



NOT a Surface Problem



**NOT ON THE
PEDESTRIAN
PATHWAY**



Skip



Feedback

Google

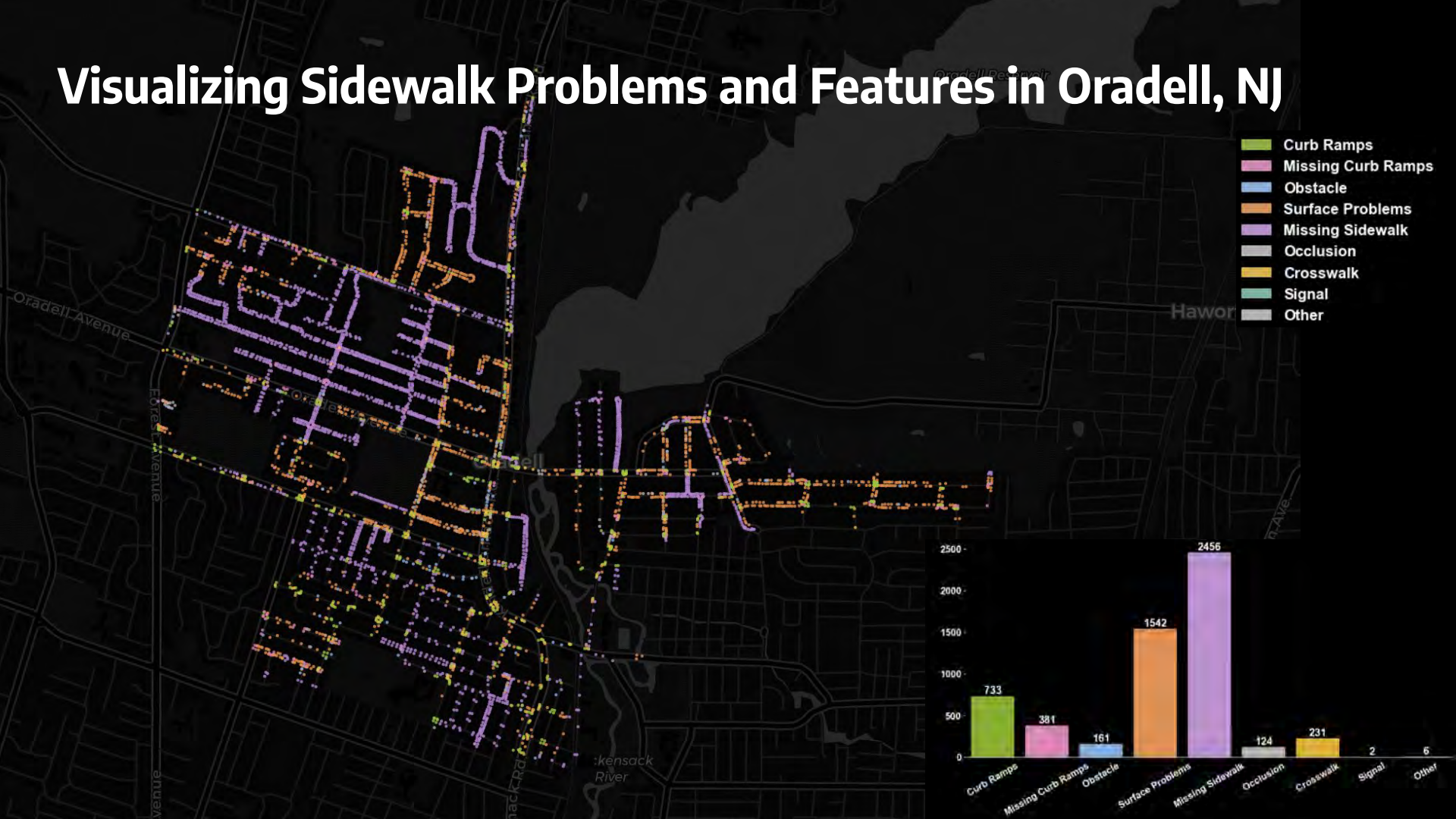
© 2019 Google Terms of Use Report a problem

✓ Agree

✗ Disagree

? Not sure

Visualizing Sidewalk Problems and Features in Oradell, NJ



A photograph of a suburban street during autumn. In the foreground, there is a sidewalk and a pile of brown leaves. In the middle ground, there is a green lawn and a concrete curb. In the background, there are several houses, including a two-story brick house and a larger white house with a porch. Trees with yellow and orange leaves are scattered throughout the scene.

THANK YOU!

[HTTPS://PROJECTSIDEWALK.ORG](https://projectsidewalk.org)

CONTACT DEVON AT DSNYDE8@UIC.EDU TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT USING PROJECT SIDEWALK
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Project Sidewalk

Background:

Sidewalks are an important part of communities: they can provide safe pathways for pedestrians, help connect people to buses and rail, and support business and recreation. For people with disabilities, sidewalks support independence, mobility, physical activity, and can improve overall quality of life outcomes. Yet, in many cities, streets, sidewalks, and businesses are inaccessible. The problem is not just a lack of accessible sidewalks but also a lack of dependable information or data on where sidewalks exist and their quality, as well as the disability viewpoints — to support, prioritize, and give resources to fix sidewalks.

The goal of this project:

To work with the people most affected by sidewalk inaccessibility to create tools to help planners, advocates, and city officials build more equitable communities.

What is the Tool:

[Project Sidewalk](#) is a tool that helps address the lack of sidewalk information. Project Sidewalk is free and lets online users label sidewalks and identify problems by *virtually* walking/rolling through city streets — kind of like a video game. We have now launched Project Sidewalk in eleven cities around the world: Seattle, WA; Newberg, OR; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Oradell, NJ; Washington, DC; Mexico City, MX; San Pedro, MX; La Piedad, MX; Amsterdam, NL. Over 10,210 users have audited 14,185 km (8,814.2 mi) of city streets contributing 736,643 labels with an accuracy of 84.1%. To our knowledge, this is the largest public sidewalk accessibility dataset ever collected. This initial work is making real-world impact!

How will you be involved?

We want municipalities to support the deployment of Project Sidewalk in their communities by connecting us with community members and civic leaders, providing feedback on the utility of the Project Sidewalk tool, and helping evaluate the potential uses of the collected data in existing and future infrastructure initiatives. Your partnership will help to understand new ways Project Sidewalk and the data collected can be used to advocate for more accessible cities and bolster local planning efforts!

Contact Devon Snyder at dsnyde8@uic.edu to learn more about using Project Sidewalk in your community!

Community Alliance

for Regional Equity

MMC Diversity Issues Task Force
December 13, 2022



ON  TO
2050

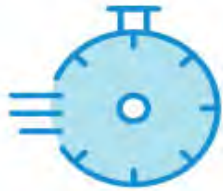
Inequities in Planning

- Government has played a role in creating and perpetuating racial inequities
- Inequities exist across all indicators for success and are sustained by historical legacies as well as modern day structures and systems that repeat patterns of exclusion



Title VI and Environmental Justice Responsibilities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Executive Order 12898 of 1994
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- U.S. Department of Transportation Order 5610.2(a)
- Executive Order 13985 of 2021



Accelerate transportation and safety issues

Elevate local, on-the-ground issue and project priorities



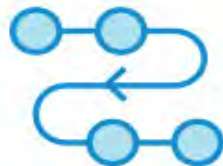
Contribute to regional decision-making processes

Funding priorities, large-scale infrastructure capital investments, technical assistance support



Collaborate in engagement and planning tools

Best practices, engagement strategies, and data sharing



Reflect and shape the alliance's processes and outcomes

Regular exchange, feedback, and learning opportunities to improve the engagement experience

Program structure

12
community-
based
organizations



\$10k
honorarium

**Stream-
lined
process**



Thank you!

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