

Southern Nevada Walk Audit Plan

Assembly Bill No. 343 (AB343)¹ requires the development of plans for conducting walking audits of urbanized areas in Clark County. As outlined in the legislation, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (RTCSNV) developed the plan in collaboration with the Southern Nevada Health District, local governments, and the Nevada Department of Transportation as described in Table 1 (below). The plan describes roles, priority locations, community engagement approaches, checklists, reporting methods, and an action plan for ongoing walk audits.

Table 1: Walk Audit Plan Process

Activity	Schedule
Gather input through two planning team meetings	September 2021
Prepare a draft plan in conjunction with Regional Walkability Plan	February – March 2022
Review by Walk Audit Planning Team, local agency legislative affairs staff	March – April 2022
RTC Executive Advisory Committee approval	April 28, 2022
RTC Board of Commissioners approval	May 19, 2022
SNHD District Board of Health review	May 26, 2022
Submit to SNHD and the Director of Legislative Counsel Bureau	May 31, 2022

A. Walk Audit Team Roles

The Walk Audit Team works collaboratively in order to develop and maintain the Walk Audit Plan, implement walk audits, and share recommendations. Detailed partner roles are described in the *Walk Audit Action Plan* (see page 8) and summarized below:

- **RTC MPO (Convener):** Forms the Walk Audit Team, maintains a contact list, and facilitates and records meetings. Prepares and updates the Walk Audit Plan in collaboration with the Walk Audit Team. Organizes and maps past walk audits to reduce duplication. Identifies and completes walk audits through the Unified Planning Work Program².
- **NDOT and Local Agencies (Clark County, Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Mesquite, Boulder City):** Contributes to the development and implementation of the Walk Audit Plan. Identifies and completes walk audits through upcoming planning studies and roadway projects. Serves as agency liaison, obtaining input or approvals from other departments and staff as needed.
- **Southern Nevada Health District:** Contributes to the development and implementation of the Walk Audit Plan. Identifies and completes grant-funded walk audits supporting health-focused educational efforts. Promotes walk audits during quarterly Partners for a Healthy Nevada meetings. Shares walk audit results provided through the SNHD website.

¹ Nevada Legislature. *Assembly Bill No. 343-Assemblywoman Thomas*. NELIS, Legislation, Bills and Resolutions. 81st Session 2021. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7881/Text>. Accessed on March 15, 2022.

² RTC of Southern Nevada. *Unified Planning Work Program FY 2022 and FY2023*. May 2021. <https://assets.rtcnv.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/06/23113129/FY-2022-2023-Unified-Planning-Work-Program.pdf>. Accessed on April 13, 2022.

B. Priority Locations

Priority pedestrian network and zones identified in the Regional Walkability Plan (see page 3) will guide the identification of walk audit locations. For example, a walk audit for a corridor study along a major roadway will be more extensive than a school. The priority pedestrian network and zones were identified through community input, local agency review, and the following selection factors:

Priority Pedestrian Zones

- Land uses (and destinations) that generate a high demand for walking
- Low-equity scores
- High number of pedestrian-involved collisions
- Adequate first/last mile connections to transit service

Priority Pedestrian Network

- High density of destinations along/near corridor
- Within ¼ mile of a school, park, or major employer
- Transit corridors
- Road network connectivity
- Land use context
- Road diet opportunities
- Lack of quality sidewalks and crosswalks
- Pedestrian level of comfort
- Heat vulnerability index
- Intersection with disadvantaged neighborhood
- Intersection with high walking mode share

Additional Locations

While the Regional Walkability Plan is the primary tool to identify walk audit locations, agencies may also consider conducting walk audits in additional areas, such as locations that:

- 1) Respond to community requests or immediate needs, such as pedestrian areas near schools, parks, or bus stops;
- 2) Further local agency planning and implementation of complete streets;
- 3) Investigate sidewalk gaps identified in the Regional Bicycle and Sidewalk Inventory; and/or
- 4) Improve Areas of Persistent Poverty/Historically Disadvantaged Communities as identified by the USDOT Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts mapping tool³.

C. Location Size or Distance

The size of the walk audit area or roadway distance evaluated will be determined based on location, need, and available resources. For example, a walk audit for a corridor study along a major roadway may cover a larger geographic area or distance than a walk audit for a neighborhood school.

³ U.S. Department of Transportation. Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts (Historically Disadvantaged Communities). <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d6f90dfcc8b44525b04c7ce748a3674a>. Accessed on April 13, 2022.

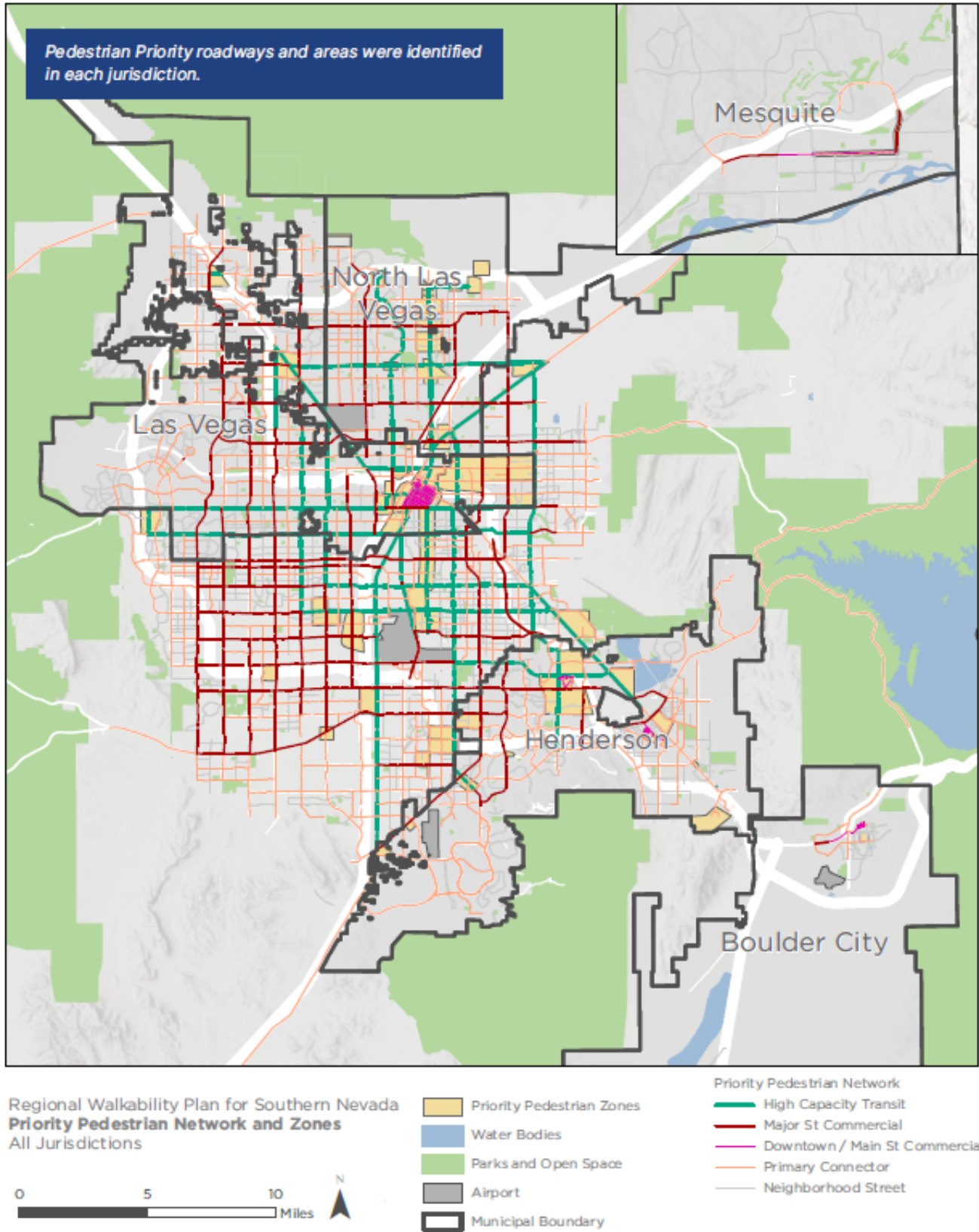


Figure 1: Regional Walkability Plan Priority Pedestrian Network and Zones

D. Audit Checklist

For consistency with AB343, walk audits will gather community input and data related to safety, crossings, sidewalks, and healthy food access as shown by the suggested list below. Agencies may develop collection tools that assess the elements below and other factors as desired, or may use the *Walkability Checklist* (see pages 5-6).

Safety

- Level of safety
- Nighttime lighting levels

Crossings

- Accessible, directional curb ramps at crosswalks
- Audible pedestrian signals (push buttons)
- Crosswalk presence and condition
- Adequate time for pedestrians of all ages and abilities to cross the street

Sidewalks

- Sidewalk gaps
- Sidewalk condition
- Obstructions in the sidewalk
- Availability of benches for pedestrians to rest
- Shade

Healthy Food Access

- Availability of grocery stores, food pantries, etc.

WALKABILITY CHECKLIST

Name: _____

Date: _____

Time of Day: _____

STREET CHARACTERISTICS

Location or segment: _____

Sidewalk width: _____

Speed limit: _____

Is traffic light, moderate, or heavy?

The number of travel lanes (both directions): _____

Center turn lane?: _____

On-street parking?: _____

Special signage present e.g. directional, district, point of interest?: _____

SIDEWALKS (For each yes answer, check the box)

Can two adults walk side-by-side comfortably on the sidewalk?

Is there a buffer (i.e. grass, trees, parking) between the sidewalk and the vehicle travel lane?

Are there missing segments of the sidewalk infrastructure?

Are there obstructions in the sidewalk?
TIP: Look for utility poles and pedestals, overgrown shrubs, low-hanging limbs, grass

Are there bicyclists also using the sidewalk?

Notes: _____

Is the sidewalk in good condition?

TIP: Look for cracks, uneven surfaces, crumbling, tree roots

Is there displaced landscaping material (i.e. gravel, rocks, etc.) on the sidewalk?

Is there a retaining wall or fence directly adjacent to the sidewalk?

If conducting in the evening, does the lighting provide uniform coverage (no dark spots between lights)?

If conducting in the evening, does the lighting allow one to identify a face from 40 feet away?

STREET CROSSINGS AND INTERSECTIONS (For each yes answer, check the box)

Are crosswalks missing or faded?

Are the sightlines blocked (can't see oncoming traffic)?

Are the curb ramps missing at the corners?

Is there a pedestrian refuge (see example on the Preparing for a Walk Audit page)?

Are there pedestrian push buttons at each intersection corner?

Is there lighting at the intersection or mid-block crossing?

Notes: _____

Can pedestrians cross the intersection in the time allotted?

TIP: Consider the elderly, children and disabled

What is the estimated distance between crossing points?
TIP: How far do you have to walk to get to an intersection or mid-block crossing (see example on the Preparing for a Walk Audit page)?

Are any of the traffic control signs (e.g. stop, crossing, school zone) obscured by tree branches?

SAFETY AND COMFORT (For each yes answer, check the box. Note any location specific information in the notes section)

- Is there shade for pedestrians?
TIP: Look for shade cast by trees, canopies, buildings, etc.
- Are there street trees?
- Is there graffiti present?
- Is there public art?
TIP: Look for murals, painted utility boxes, sculptures, etc.
- Are there benches/seating areas for pedestrians?
- Is there litter or illegal dumping in the area?

- Is there pedestrian-scaled lighting present?
TIP: Pedestrian-scaled lighting is lower than typical street lighting
- Are there ambush/hiding spots or areas that feel unsafe or isolated?
- Are there unleashed animals present? If yes, mark on map or note location(s) in the Notes section below
- Are there people out walking in the area?

OVERALL, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A PEDESTRIAN IN THIS AUDIT AREA? CHECK THE EMOJI THAT BEST FITS:



Notes: _____

DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOR

(For each yes answer, check the box. Note any location specific information in the notes section)

- Do **drivers** stop at stop signs or stop lights?
- Do **drivers** yield or stop for pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk (marked or unmarked)

- Do **drivers** appear to be speeding?
- Are **drivers** distracted (i.e. texting, on the phone, interacting with passengers)

OVERALL, THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF DRIVER BEHAVIOR IS:



- Do **pedestrians** cross at intersections (marked or unmarked crosswalks) or at designated mid-block crossings

- Are **pedestrians** distracted (i.e. texting, on the phone, talking with others)?
- Are **pedestrians** waiting for the walk signal (or green light if no pedestrian signal) to cross?

OVERALL, THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOR IS:



Notes: _____

E. Community Engagement

Community engagement methods and timing are dependent on the planning process, outreach goals, community role in decision-making, and available resources. Options for both real-time and asynchronous, online input is encouraged. Agencies leading each audit will select engagement tools and tactics that align with [IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation](#), which may include:

- 1) INFORM: Webpage, e-communication, webinars
- 2) CONSULT: Public meetings, social media polls
- 3) INVOLVE: Walk audit workshop, stakeholder meetings, social media live
- 4) COLLABORATE: Consensus building activities

F. Stakeholder Analysis

Interdisciplinary teams conducting walk audits may include representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

Public Sector

- Local agency planning departments
- Local agency public works departments (e.g. maintenance, roadway design)
- Elected or appointed officials (e.g. planning commissioners)
- Safe Routes to School
- Law enforcement

Private Sector

- Local business owners

Non-Profit

- Affordable and low-income housing organizations
- Representatives of community organizations

Employees and Residents

- Local residents, including people of all ages and abilities
- Representatives from nearby schools (e.g. teachers)
- Transit riders
- Bicyclists

G. Next Steps

Beginning in July 2022, one or more walk audits will be completed on an annual basis as identified through the following: 1) the RTC's Unified Planning Work Program, which identifies upcoming planning studies, 2) upcoming planning studies led by NDOT and local agencies, and 3) opportunities identified through quarterly meetings of the Walk Audit Implementation Team. As possible, audits will be completed during different seasons, including periods of extreme heat, and time of day.

The Southern Nevada Health District website (snhd.info or southernnevadahealthdistrict.org) will provide walk audit reports (PDF format) and display walk audit routes through online mapping tools (e.g. GIS, Google Maps). Bilingual, Section 508 compliant walk audit reports are encouraged. As possible, lead organizations may also produce short outreach video(s) highlighting walk audit recommendations and/or implementation. Additionally, the webpage will include a method for community members to share walkability concerns and suggest potential walk audit locations.

H. Walk Audit Action Plan

Action	Roles	Timeline
Location Identification		
Map locations of past walk audits to reduce duplication.	RTC (L)	In process
Identify locations for walk audits through 2-year Unified Planning Work Program.	RTC (L) Local agencies (S)	Biannually; FY24-25 Plan will be approved by June 2023
Identify opportunities for walk audits during upcoming transportation planning, corridor studies, and roadway projects.	NDOT, Local agencies (L)	Ongoing
Maintain and update a list of potential walk audits.	RTC (L)	Quarterly
Convene planning team meetings to track and report progress.	RTC (L) Local agencies (S) SNHD (S) NDOT (S)	Quarterly
Complete Walk Audits		
Complete walk audit pre-planning which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine planning process, outreach goal(s) and community role(s) in decision-making using the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation. Determine walk audit input tool(s) and format (virtual, in-person, or hybrid) and time/location most convenient for target audience. Consider providing an online option for asynchronous input. Identify and invite participation of walk audit participants. Prepare agendas, maps, and customize checklist(s). Obtain waivers and safety equipment as needed. 	Lead agency	Determined by project schedule
Facilitate walk audit event(s).	Lead agency	Determined by project schedule
Share Outcomes		
Prepare walk audit summary report, including recommended next steps, roles, timelines, and potential funding sources. Section 508, bilingual report format is encouraged. Video(s) highlighting walk audit findings and recommendations may also supplement the report.	Walk audit lead agency	Approx. one month after walk audit completion
Share walk audit locations and recommendations through the Southern Nevada Health District website.	SNHD (L) RTC (S)	Approx. one month after walk audit completion
Maintain contact list(s) of walk audit participants to share outcomes and engage in future pedestrian plans and programs.	All	Ongoing
Track Long-Term Results		
Follow-up on walk audits to determine status of implementation (e.g. completed, funded, in planning, in design, in construction, or not implemented).	Local agency planning staff (L)	Annually



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May 2022

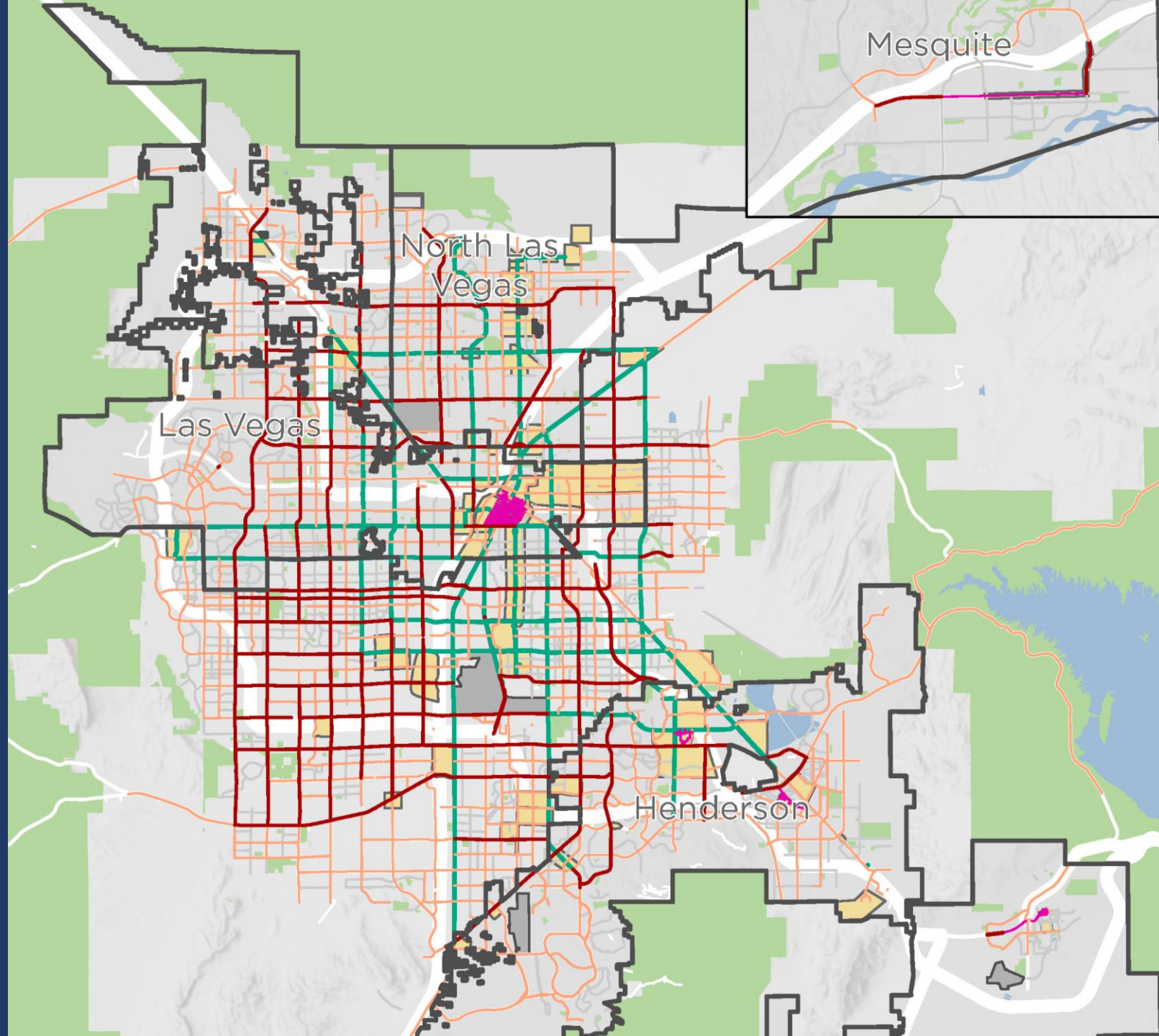
ROLES

RTC MPO

Local
Agencies
NDOT

Southern
Nevada
Health District

PRIORITY LOCATIONS





WALK AUDIT CHECKLIST

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Crossings
- ✓ Sidewalks
- ✓ Shade
- ✓ Healthy Food

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



ACTION PLAN

Identify Locations



Complete Walk Audits



Share Outcomes



Track Results

SCHEDULE

APRIL 28



MAY 19



MAY 26



MAY 31



A crowd of people is walking across a crosswalk on a city street. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the center, there is a white sunburst graphic above the large, bold, white text 'RTC'. The people are in various stages of walking, and their shadows are cast on the pavement. The overall atmosphere is busy and urban.

RTC