



*Locating an area's key anchors and best frontages can be instrumental in determining where new construction can have the greatest impact on creating pedestrian culture.*

In 2008, *Prevention* magazine named Oklahoma City the “least walkable city in America.” Mayor Mick Cornett reached out to Jeff Speck for help, and the concept of the Walkability Study was born. Seven years later, the majority of the streets in the City’s downtown core had been remade in line with that study’s recommendations.

Since that effort—the first “walkability study” on record—Speck Dempsey has completed similar projects for thirteen other cities: Grand Rapids, MI; Memphis, TN; Davenport, IA; Bethlehem, PA; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Norwalk, CT; Boise, ID; West Palm Beach, FL; Albuquerque, NM; Lancaster, PA; Tulsa, OK; Rogers, AR; and Mobile, AL. These efforts vary based on need, but all include detailed recommendations for the reconfiguration of streets, the development of key private and public properties, and the provision and management of transit and parking, all towards the stated goal of quickly increasing the amount of walking and biking downtown.

Implementation has varied, based on each City’s political commitment to becoming more walkable and bikeable. In some cities, like Fort Lauderdale and Albuquerque, the Walkability Study has become a central document shaping City investment. In others, shifts in leadership or other factors have limited the Study’s impact to fewer locations. For this reason, Speck Dempsey now chooses its Walkability Study clients with great care, typically completing only one such effort each year.