WALKABILITY FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH **AGE-RELATED VISION LOSS IN LONDON, ONTARIO**

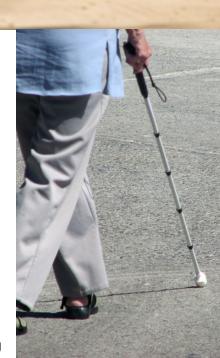
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WHAT IS WALKABILITY?

Walkability is a **multidimensional concept** that includes aspects of both the built and social environment. It intends to measure "how friendly an area is to walking" and has important population level impacts.

(Tobin et al., 2022)

- Neighbourhoods that are not walkable can lead to experiences of occupational injustice and restrict social participation
- This project arose from a critical participatory action research (CPAR) study
- The research collective for this project completed a scoping review to look at solutions and strategies to support community mobility for older adults
- Walkability was a concept underrepresented in the literature and the collective wanted to explore this further through audits in our local community





THE AUDITS

- Conducted in 4 London neighbourhoods with perceived high populations of older adults (60+)
- Utilized The Road Safety Audit Tool for Pedestrians who are Visually Impaired, which was developed in Australia
- · Focused on signalised intersections, nonsignalised intersections, and path infrastructure
- Identified key barriers to walkability and ways to improve the built environment

NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Fanshawe-Richmond
- Cherryhill
- **Huron-Highbury**



Wharncliffe-Commissioners

BARRIERS TO WALKABILITY IDENTIFIED...



Lack of Accessible Pedestrian Signals

Difficult to navigate transit areas

Lack of Tactile **Ground Surface Indicators**



Uneven sidewalks and medians

NEXT STEPS

- Create a detailed report with findings from the audit for the City of London's Transportation and Design Committee
- The report will include recommendations/guidelines to improve walkability for older adults with ARVL set out by the City of London, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and the Canada National Institute for the
- Interview older adults residing in these neighbourhoods to understand their lived experience and perceived barriers to walkability in the community

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CPAR RESEARCH COLLECTIVE.

