

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Public invited to ‘Safe Routes for All’ town hall meeting March 25**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – The Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department are hosting a “Safe Routes for All” town hall meeting 7-9 p.m. March 25 at Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts St. The goal is to raise awareness about the importance of having bicycle and pedestrian transportation infrastructure that is safe and accessible for all ages and abilities.

“Everyone should have the choice to safely get around the community, whether they travel by foot, bike, public transit or car,” said Community Health Planner Charlie Bryan of the Health Department. “Planning, funding and building safe routes for all modes of transportation can make safe walking and biking a reality for the entire community, regardless of age, income, or ability level.”

Robert Ping of Portland, Oregon, a national expert from the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, will be the keynote speaker. He will talk about initiatives in other communities that make travel by foot, bicycle or wheelchair safer. Representatives from area communities will serve on a panel and talk about how they are improving their bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. These communities include Topeka, Manhattan, Lincoln, Neb., and Columbia, Mo.

Lawrence City Commissioners and City Commission candidates also will be given a few minutes to present their plan to improve active transportation options in Lawrence and answer questions from the public.

“There is a growing desire in our community for safer bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as better sidewalks, safer intersections and protected bike lanes,” said Erin Paden, facilitator of the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition and a member of the Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee. “This event is an opportunity for residents to learn about bicycle and pedestrian transportation infrastructure and engage in a community discussion.”

The event is free and open to the public. There will be bike valet parking, refreshments and door prizes. More than 30 businesses and organizations support the event. For more information, visit [www.lawrencewalks.org](http://www.lawrencewalks.org).