

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Karrey Britt
Communications Coordinator
Office: (785) 856-7362

Contact: Gary Webber
Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition
(785) 312-4840

Public invited to ‘Safe Routes for All’ town hall meeting Sept. 21

(Lawrence, KS) – The Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department are hosting a “Safe Routes for All” town hall meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sept. 21 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.”

The keynote speaker will be Mark Fenton, a national public health, planning and transportation consultant, adjunct associate professor at Tufts University’s Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and former host of the “America’s Walking” series on PBS television. He’s the author of numerous books including the best-selling “Complete Guide to Walking for Health, Weight Loss and Fitness.” Fenton will talk about the importance of “engineering physical activity back into American communities and lives.”

After Fenton’s presentation, Lawrence City Commission candidates will be given the opportunity to share their vision for safer routes in Lawrence and then answer questions from the public.

The first “Safe Routes for All” town hall meeting was in spring 2015. “We’ve made excellent progress, but much remains to be done,” said Gary Webber, of the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition. “We need to finish the Lawrence Loop, find an equitable and practical funding source for sidewalk repair, and take the next step toward improving bicycle infrastructure. This event is an opportunity for residents to learn about our accomplishments and provide feedback about our goals and how we will achieve them.”

The event is free and open to the public. There will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information, visit www.lawrencewalks.org.