



## Walking with a Purpose Success Story: Cerro Gordo County

The Public Health Wellness group completed a walkability assessment in Mason City on May 6, 2010. Students, parents, and county officials completed the assessment in a four-block radius around the downtown corridor. During the walk, students were surprised to learn how easy it is to get to their favorite places by walking.

Every street has sidewalks at least four feet wide, street intersections have stop lights to provide crossing signals, and drivers are cautious of pedestrians.

However, participants did express concern regarding the poorly lit streets, dark alleys, and crosswalks that need to be repainted. In addition, biking appears to be a challenge due to the lack of bike racks throughout the community. The city has already developed a downtown improvement plan, and the



results of the walkability assessment will be compared to the proposed renovation to ensure there will be adequate walking amenities. In the future, the group plans to use the Walking with a Purpose tool to assess school routes, to see if a walking school bus program could benefit the community.

