

SILK PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

Measuring Walkability in Bishkek

Development of a methodology for assessing the quality of sidewalks for walkability and mobility in three typologies of urban spaces in Bishkek: city center, micro district, novostroika.

10/30/20

1. Concept

A team of researchers will develop a methodology for evaluating *walkability* and *pedestrian mobility* in three types of urban spaces in Bishkek: city center, micro-districts, and low-rise urban periphery. The team will test the methodology in selected locales and document the final methodology for the use by others. Deliverables will include the research methodology, collected data and its analysis, a report on findings in three test zones, recommendations for remediation strategies, and a workshop on using the methodology that would be recorded and posted on-line.

2. Problem

More and more residents of Bishkek want to walk, jog and bike for their health and in order to have cleaner air and a greener city. However, people who walk the city streets encounter many obstacles that limit their mobility due to poor *walkability* of the city streets. While some sidewalks along the central streets of the city were recently renovated, there are still many streets with very poor quality of sidewalks. These sidewalks can be hazardous, deteriorated, unshaded, unaesthetic, and moreover, not suitable for people with disabilities and limited mobility or for people with baby carriages and grocery carts.

The goal of the project is to develop a methodology for measuring and analyzing the walkability of city streets, and to reveal and highlight problematic areas in order to help prioritize, strategize and accelerate improvements that would make the city more walkable.

3. Outcomes, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries

The research team will develop a unique research methodology, collect data in three types of location, analyze it, and produce recommendations for governmental and non-governmental organizations and local municipalities. The

research will help determine the walkability of sidewalks in Bishkek city and identify factors affecting it. The team will deliver a report with diagrams, maps, statistics, records of observations, analysis of interviews, and photographs. The material can be used as a training and guiding resource for the city administration, architects, policy makers, researchers and local communities.

Direct Beneficiaries: the Mayor's office, actors and institutions advocating for better mobility in Bishkek, researchers, urban planners, architects.

Indirect Beneficiaries: Communities, donor organizations, public health institutions.

4. Leadership

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- b. Seth Fearey, fearey_s@auca.kg
- c. Zhamilya Baiborieva, jamilya.baibo@gmail.com

5. Partners

- a. Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, <https://soros.kg/?lang=en>
- b. American University of Central Asia, <https://www.auca.kg>
- c. Urban Initiatives, <http://urban.kg>
- d. Studio Museum, <https://museum.kg>
- e. Move Green, <http://movegreen.kg>
- f. Peshkom Initiative, <http://peshcom.org>

6. Deliverables and Timetable - Approximate

No.	Deliverable	Duration
1.	Literature review and research methodology design	1 month
2.	Fieldwork	1 month
3.	Data entry and analysis	1 month
4.	Writing the report	1 month
5.	Presentation of findings and methodology workshop	1 week

7. Budget

No.	Item	Price
1.	One researcher	\$1500
2.	Data collection assistants	\$1000
3.	Miscellaneous materials and publication	\$200
4.	Presentation of findings and methodology workshop	\$100
	Total	\$2800

Links to the introductory articles about walkability research methodologies, tools

<https://www.scielo.br/pdf/ac/v19n4/1678-8621-ac-19-04-0023.pdf>

<https://youtu.be/eKAD5ldFWAo>

<https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-walkability-how-do-you-measure-it-take-aways-from-this-years-trb-meeting>

<https://pedestriansfirst.itdp.org/contribute-data>