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**For immediate release**

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## National expert on pedestrian safety, livability to participate in Tucson pedestrian audit on Jan. 25

Dan Burden, executive director and co-founder of Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, will lead a walking audit at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the University of Arizona 6<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Garage kiosk (on the west end of the parking garage).

The audit, which will occur in the Rincon Heights neighborhood, is one of two that is part of the UA Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Study, which is funded in part by Pima Association of Governments, the region's metropolitan planning agency. PAG is working with the University of Arizona Parking and Transportation Services on the UA Study which aims to increase the bicycling and walking trips to campus and to make the campus safer for those modes of transportation. For more information about the study, visit [www.PAGregion.com](http://www.PAGregion.com).

"PAG has hired Alta Planning and Design, a national walking and bicycling planning firm that is bringing Dan Burden to Tucson to lead the audits as part of the public participation effort for study," said Ann Chanecka, a senior transportation planner with PAG.

Burden has spent more than 35 years helping the world get "back on its feet" and his efforts have not only earned him the first-ever lifetime achievement awards issued by the New Partners for Smart Growth and the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals but, in 2001, he was named by *Time* magazine as "one of the six most important civic innovators in the world."

In 2009, a user's poll by Planetizen named Burden as one of the Top 100 Urban Thinkers of all time. Early in his career, starting in 1980, Burden served for 16 years as the country's first statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the Florida Department of Transportation, and that program became a model for other statewide programs in the United States. In 1996, Burden sought to expand his reach and ability to really change the world, so he and his wife Lys co-founded a nonprofit organization called Walkable Communities. Since then, Burden has personally helped 3,500 communities throughout the world become more livable and walkable. In 2009, Burden co-founded the WALC Institute with General Manager

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Sarah Bowman to create a focus on education, capacity-building and training to support communities in becoming more engaged and healthier through active living.

While here, Burden also will meet with City of Tucson officials to help guide the city in its new pedestrian safety initiative, including a presentation at the UA College of Public Health on how to conduct walking audits.

The second audit is at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, and will focus more on campus facilities and connections to the northern neighborhoods. The audit will begin at the bicycle valet station on the UA Mall.

A walking audit reviews the walking conditions along specified streets and is conducted by a diverse group of community members. Participants experience firsthand the conditions that either support or create barriers to walking.

“People walk, bike or visit a place when it feels safe, secure and comfortable,” Chanecka said, “and when the street environment makes walking a natural activity.”

Considerations in the audit may include: street width, speed of traffic, block length, presence of good sidewalks, building location, motorist behavior and pedestrian behavior.

*Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, energy, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit [www.PAGnet.org](http://www.PAGnet.org) for more information.*