

## NUANCES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN STREETS

According to the late traffic researcher [Ben Hamilton-Baille](#), driver speeds and human behavior are inseparable. When traffic speeds are greater you may notice that fewer people are chatting while walking or that a parent will hold their child’s hand more tightly while near the street. On the other hand, when there is less pedestrian activity, you may notice that traffic goes faster. Even in subtle ways, the designated speed and shape of a street influences human behavior, which is why firsthand observation is an invaluable tool.

### Street Evaluation Suggestions

Chapter 2 provided an overview of key transportation policies and strategies related to streetscapes and pedestrian networks, traffic, and parking. The following suggestions align with those areas and can help guide your observations, evaluations, and the questions you ask yourself or others on the street.

THEME	THINGS TO LOOK FOR	QUESTIONS TO ASK
<b>STREETSCAPE DESIGN &amp; PEDESTRIAN NETWORK</b>	<b>Streetscape:</b> lighting, plants, trees, banners, seating, trash receptacles, artwork, shade, water features, family-friendly amenities, information kiosks, charging stations, cleanliness	Is it enjoyable to be in this space? _____
	<b>Pedestrian experience:</b> sidewalks, crosswalks, crossing signals & timing, wayfinding, ramps, refuge islands, auditory and visual cues, crime, unleashed dogs	Is it enjoyable for a child, older adult, or person with a disability, as well? _____
	<b>Cycling experience:</b> bikeways, bike lanes (sharrows, painted, protected), wayfinding, bike parking, bike storage, bike share, bike repair, bike shops	Is there evidence of volunteerism and stewardship? _____
	<b>Transit:</b> presence of train/bus/shuttle, presence of shelters/stops/stations, transit signage, transit access, predictable schedule	Is there a mix of ages, genders, and ethnic groups? _____
<b>TRAFFIC</b>	<b>Driver behavior:</b> speeding, turning, distracted driving	Can pedestrians and those using mobility aids easily walk and roll through this space? _____
	<b>Traffic movement:</b> congestion, volume, deliveries, person pick-up, waste pick-up	Are the uses of adjacent buildings/spaces visible and inviting to pedestrians? _____
	<b>Roadway:</b> number of lanes, one- or two-way, traffic signs and signals, traffic calming measures, speed limit	Can cyclists easily get to and through the space? _____
		Are bike amenities safe and convenient? _____
<b>PARKING</b>	<b>On-street parking:</b> parallel parking, angled parking, perpendicular parking	Can transit users easily get to and through the space? _____
	<b>Off-street parking:</b> business-related surface parking, separate surface lots, garages, valet services	Is the proximity and speed of vehicles intimidating? _____
		Is the street congested with cars? _____