

## Madisonville, Kentucky (Pop. 19,791)

A coalition of leaders chose transportation walkability as one issue to address in a new grant affecting the community. A walkability study highlighted areas like the railroad overpass, which people were using without sufficient walking space, putting themselves in danger. On the south side of Madisonville were no sidewalks. The governor happened to visit for an unrelated issue and asked what Madisonville needed. “Sidewalks!” came the answer. Now the community has more sidewalks, which see lots of use.

The city adopted “live, work, play” as a theme. The coalition takes a long view, focusing on policies and procedures impacting long-term needs. Smaller scale benefits are cropping up. A teacher initiated exercise before 2nd and 3rd grade classes, then found test scores improved. Madisonville has a web site for comment submission and responds to resident comments, so if residents notice a street light that’s out, they know how to address it. The constant throughout the improvements has been the coalition, always willing to tackle the next issue.

### Key Lessons:

- It doesn’t matter who gets the credit. Getting it done is what matters.
- If you put people on the defensive, they don’t want to help you.



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