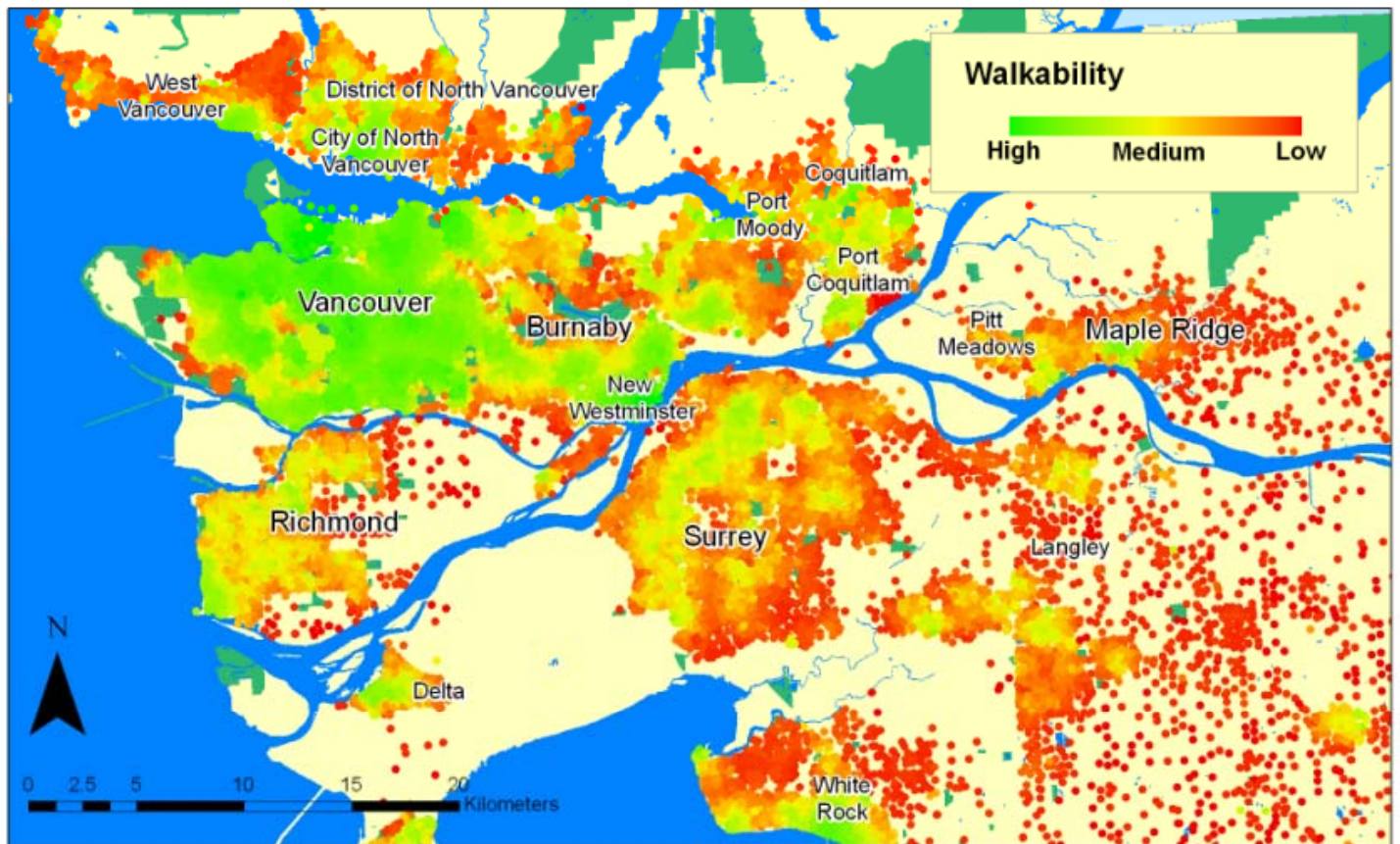


The Vancouver Walkability Surface

— overview and applications



The Walkability Surface is a high resolution database, made up of values of a 'Walkability Index' for each postal code (approximately the size of a block face) in Metro Vancouver.

The Walkability Index incorporates measures of four characteristics of the built environment known to relate with walking behaviour into a single, aggregate measure. These characteristics are: land use mix, commercial density, residential density, and street connectivity.



For more information, please visit the Active Transportation Collaboratory web page <http://www.act-trans.ubc.ca/>, or contact Larry Frank, Bombardier Chairholder in Sustainable Transportation at the University of British Columbia at ldfrank@interchange.ubc.ca.

APPLICATION OF THE WALKABILITY SURFACE

Recent evidence shows important relationships between the design of the built environment and population health. Agreement appears to be forming over the relationships between neighborhood walkability, time spent in cars, and physical activity levels and obesity.

The walkability surface can therefore be used in a wide variety of analyses to inform policies relating to transportation and public health. Projects currently planned or underway will link the walkability surface with data on travel, physical activity, obesity, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and location efficiency.

The Vancouver Walkability surface is a project of the UBC active Transport Collaboratory. Related research projects include:

- Promoting Public Health through Smart Growth
- Assessing Travel and Environmental Impacts of the Fused Grid
- Exploring Synergies between Public Transit Use and Non-Motorized Transportation
- Promoting Physical Activity of Children through Community Design

