

## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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### **Kimball Committee Working to Make Community More Walking and Biking Friendly**

A recent assessment of the ability to walk and bike around Kimball is helping to inform a community group of key strategies and opportunities to promote health and encourage residents to embrace an active lifestyle. The report includes a summary of community input, inventory of current conditions, analysis of key data points, and recommendations for the City to consider when making improvements to bicycle and pedestrian corridors and will be reviewed in detail at a meeting in September.

The community assessment was conducted over the summer with Kimball residents identifying they walk or bike for recreation, exercise, and to experience nature. The most apparent trend is a strong desire for more and better biking and walking facilities. These findings suggest that bike/ped access to parks and recreation is extremely valuable to the community in addition to jobs, schools, and other activity centers.

- For walking, the improvement identified as a top priority was better condition of sidewalks. There was also significant interest in more sidewalks and more trails.
- For biking, the top priority was more bike trails and many people also identified bike lanes as a desired improvement.

“The assessment is a helpful tool in helping the Kimball Active Living Advisory Committee make decisions that will help people more safely walk or bike to the pool, parks, school, downtown businesses, grocery store, hospital, and library. The progress done by the Kimball Community Trail is a wonderful benefit and addition to the community and evident through community input the demand for access to trails like the one being initiated on the south side of town,” said Jessica Davies, Assistant Health Director with Panhandle Public Health District.

Other common themes were a need for safer intersections and a preference for biking and walking routes that avoid locations with heavy vehicular traffic. Additionally, there are frequent transitions between detached and attached sidewalks within individual blocks making safety a big concern.

The Kimball Active Living Advisory Committee is coordinated by Panhandle Public Health District and comprised of community, local business, school, county, and city representatives. They’ve been meeting monthly to implement strategies identified from a planning meeting last spring and will build upon the report findings.

If you are interested in providing input, the next meeting will be held on **September 14** from **10-11 am** at the **Kimball Health Services North Campus**.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.