Reviewer's report

**Title:** Inequitable walking conditions among older people: examining the inter-relationship of neighbourhood socio-economic status and urban form using a comparative case study

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 30 July 2010

**Reviewer:** Miriam Ryvicker

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript examines how neighborhood SES and urban form influence the walking experiences of older adults and explores potential socio-political mechanisms underlying these relationships. The paper is thoughtfully conceived and well written. I believe that the authors have addressed the major concerns raised in my prior review. The organization and overall clarity of the findings have greatly improved. The additional information on the sample of older adults and their walking activities is helpful. The interpretation of the socio-political processes is better justified than in the previous version of the paper.

I have one question/suggestion for the conclusion. The literature on walkability draws on a variety of measures to describe the (usually) urban landscape, and some indices have been developed or are in development. As of yet there are no "gold standard" measures. This is partly a data issue, but perhaps also a conceptual one that may be informed by qualitative research that draws on the perspectives of different constituents. Does the current paper have any particular implications for measuring walkability? Do the findings offer insights about what is important to capture? Given the largely urban focus of walkability studies, does the paper make a unique contribution to the conceptualization and measurement of walkability in suburban settings? I don't think addressing this is essential for the overall quality of the paper, but it might be of interest to some readers.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.