Reviewer’s report

Title: Compliance Potential Mapping: A Tool to Assess Potential Contributions of Walking Towards Physical Activity Guidelines

Version: 5 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: Paul Kelly

Reviewer’s report:

I think the authors have done a very good job of responding to the review and the manuscript is greatly improved.

I have 4 remaining areas from the original review which I believe have not been thoroughly addressed or rebutted.

MAJOR

2. On the question of validity, I was not questioning the sophistication of the model. The model estimates the potential for compliance - the authors should comment on how good (or bad) they believe these estimates to be. They should note what sources of bias detract from the validity (e.g. the self-report data used). Is there any way of estimating the quality of these estimates? I believe the authors should at least propose a way of answering this question (e.g. seeing if GPS measured or researcher observed PA of participants agrees with predictions made by the model).

4. I am still surprised at the length of the conclusion. A quick look at other recently published BMC Public Health articles reveals that when this heading is used the section is 1 paragraph only. I realise this is largely stylistic and leave this decision to the discretion of the Editor.

14. The choice of walk, car and transit modes is now well justified with representative percentages. However, it is still unclear what percentage of trips are included and excluded by using only home-based trips.

MINOR

4. I still think "the" needs removing from this sentence (line 260-262) "Street density and square footage to building ratio are *the* also significant in determining the propensity of higher walking trips and the effect of these variables are negative for car trips".

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests