Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between neighborhood walkability and daily step counts in adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 7 May 2015

Reviewer: Erica Hinckson

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract
Results and conclusion are more or less the same.
65: “that have been done”: casual
67: may be associated

Background
Short and very superficial introduction. You could explain a bit more about walkability: what is walkability, how is it measured, e.g. street connectivity, land use mix.

MESH terms
How far did you look back for articles, from which year?
Additional File is not really necessary, as it is a very short piece of text, add it in the methods.
‘Actigraphy’ is mention twice.
Change it to actigraph*: instead pf actigraphy, since this is the name of the measurement instrument, and therefore can also be used in articles.

Why home environment?
Add neighbourhood design to MESH terms, as environment design and urban design is also included.

Land use mix, street connectivity, etc. are used as key words to search for articles. There is no explanation about these terms. Explain in the introduction or methods.

Methods
118: All of the identified articles: how many?
Clarify the searching strategy: How many articles left over after each selection step # Mentioned in the results, but move to methods.

Results
161: What about the other 3 studies? Are these the ones you mention next? Be clear: … conclusive for three studies. The other three studies assessed …
162: Explain what utilitarian walking is.
166-167: No brackets, make it a sentence in the text.

Discussion

Short discussion, is this a brief report?

Line 194: Explain a bit more about these other ways of measuring walkability.

Are there any limitations to your study? E.g. only 6 studies; not all the 6 were comparable with CI intervals; maybe some aspects of walkability could be important but not included in this study?

Recommendations for future research?

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests