

General tips for writing a Letter to the Editor of a newspaper or other print publication –

- Most newspapers want letters submitted via their websites;
- Most ask that you provide your name, address, and phone number so they can verify the letter is from you;
- Most provide a maximum word count;
- The usual guideline for length of a letter is “shorter is better”. However, don’t let that prevent you from saying all that you want to say in your letter.

Here are examples of what you may write about in your letter –

- A compliment for a pedestrian-friendly feature such as a new crosswalk or sidewalk;
- Describe a problem you observe and ask for community leaders’ support in a solution;
- Offer educational information such as a resource website or safety tips;
- Encourage others to advocate for walkable communities.

Sample Letter to the Editor –

To the Editor,
Recently my family strategized how we could fit more walking into our daily routines. We want to reduce the amount we drive and we want to experience the health benefits associated with walking. There are many benefits to living in a community designed to be walkable. When destinations are a reasonable walking distance away, sidewalks are available and maintained, and safe crossings are in place it makes it much easier to make the healthy choice to walk. We ask our city and county leaders to keep the benefits of walkable communities in mind when they plan for new development and transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,
John Q. Public
1234 Anystreet
Vancouver WA 98123

