Measuring Connectivity for Bicycling and Walking

Active Living Research Round 1 PI: Jennifer Dill, Ph.D. Portland State University

Why Connectivity?



Three-Step Project

- 1. Develop measures of network connectivity
- Compare connectivity measures to performance measures to help select best measure(s)
- 3. Evaluate implementation issues



- Block length
- Block area
- Block density
- Intersection density
- Street network density

- Connected Node Ratio
 - intersections / intersections + cul-de-sacs
- Link/Node Ratio

- Alpha Index
 - Ratio of the number of actual circuits to the maximum number of circuits
 - A circuit is a finite, closed path starting and ending at a single node
- Gamma Index

 Ratio of the number of links in the network to the maximum possible number of links between nodes

Effective Walking Area

– Ratio of the number of parcels within a onequarter mile walking distance of a point to the total number of parcels within a onequarter mile radius of that point

Pedestrian Route Directness

 Ratio of route distance to straight-line distance for two selected points

Intersection Density





Evaluating Measures

- Which connectivity measures best reflect minimizing trip distances and route directness?
- Pedestrian Route Directness: most direct route/straight-line
- But, difficult to use in research and policy – requires selecting points.





Implementation Potential

- What can other researchers and public agencies realistically measure?
- Survey of 30 cities

The end

Jennifer Dill web.pdx.edu/~jdill jdill@pdx.edu