Walking City fabric, the Walking City is a city system, which can be found in most city centres and biggest sub centres. The size and the qualities of the walking city fabric vary depending on the history, location, size, type, stage of development, level of motorization, etc. of the city in question.

Size and qualities of the walking city fabric can be identified from it's typical elements and features. Basic element of the walking city fabric is the network of streets and public spaces that is suitable for walking and cycling. Other basic elements are buildings and courtyards with apartments, offices, service units, etc that are suitable or even promote carless activities. Good walking cities have special elements like a pedestrian centre or pedestrian streets with all kinds of services, calmed or shared streets, carless housing units, etc.

Typical features of the walking city fabric are big number of pedestrians and cyclists on the streets, versatility of activities on the streets and squares, big number of carless households and households with one car only, use of public transport etc and cycling. Good walking city fabric is a good basis for sustainable living and activities.

Zone of the walking city fabric, Walking City Zone is an area surrounding the center within a radius of 2-3 kilometres, which means a 30 minutes walk. The zone consists of two sub zones, an intensive inner zone within a radius of 1 like kilometre and an outer zone. In addition to elements of the walking city fabric, walking city zone includes also elements of the transit city and the car city fabrics.

Many units inside the Walking City Zone are serving inhabitants from all fabrics, so they are elements or combinations of elements of all three fabrics. These can be very positive units, if the elements of different fabrics function together in a symbiosis. On the other hand, elements of the car city fabric can also be very problematic, if they are dominating and limiting the functions of the walking city. The walking city can even lose most of its importance if too many elements of the walking city fabric are replaced by elements of the car city fabric.

Walking city fabric is part of the urban process and there have been several stages of development, which can be considered as historical layers or stages of the walking city. In Kuopio for instance, the first Walking City was a compact wooden town with small houses, closed courtyards and mix of activities. The next stage was a "Modern city" with block of flats and open courtyards, all dominated by cars and elements of car city fabric. The third stage, which still continues, is a "New Walking City" with a new pedestrian centre, network of alleys for pedestrians, new housing and courtyards for carless households etc.

As a historical classification, walking city covers all city types that were built before adoption of rail- and motor traffic. There are some historical walking cities still existing like Venice. In classification of cities “Walking City” refers to big Asian cities that depend strongly on pedestrian and bicycle traffic.