

About WalkBoston

WalkBoston makes walking safer and easier in Massachusetts to encourage better health, a cleaner environment and vibrant communities. Our education and advocacy programs give voice to people to make their communities more walkable. We develop and implement innovative programs that address social and physical barriers to walking.

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we connect
people to
walking

our work by the numbers...

101 of 351 municipalities

have been helped by WalkBoston programs

10,000 2nd graders

learned how to walk safely in 50 municipalities

\$10 billion worth of projects

reviewed for walkability on 28 real estate project designs

62 walking maps

prepared with municipalities

18,700 children

walked in 8 municipal Safe Routes to School programs

96 golden shoes

awarded to walking advocates

21 communities

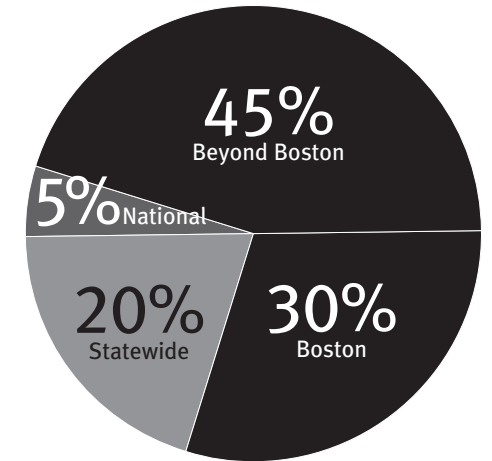
provided with advocacy training for residents

43 walking audits

led with residents in 15 communities

\$3,450 on kickstarter

raised to match a grant for a Revere walking map



...and by location

24 years of connecting local, state and national efforts to advocate for change

Since 1990 when WalkBoston became the first pedestrian advocacy group in the country, people have looked to us to lead the way on walkability issues in Massachusetts and nationally.

On the local level, we develop effective programs by reaching out to communities and responding to their requests for assistance and technical advice.

On the state level, we work with cities, towns and statewide groups, and serve as the primary pedestrian voice on many transportation and health projects.

On the national level, we co-founded America Walks, which represents and speaks out for walkers nationally. Today, it includes pedestrian advocacy groups that represent over 50,000 people and it leads the Everybody Walks Collaborative.

Design: NinaGarfinkle.com
Editing/Content: Ken Krause, Ann Hershfang, Bob Sloane, Joyce DiBona
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MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE

45 School Street | Boston MA 02108 | 617.367.9255 | www.walkboston.org



MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE

Local actions

WHAT	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & PROGRAMS	ADDRESSING BARRIERS	OUTCOMES
Advise citizens & advocates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town center walking improvements • Rural walking options on rural roads & public land • Boston Marathon running team • Age-friendly walkway designs for seniors and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops to train local residents • Technical assistance on plans for physical improvements • More involvement through local meetings • Joint group actions where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural, suburban and urban communities have safe attractive walking and running options • Safety is a priority for all, and especially for children, elderly & disabled people
Collaborate with municipal & state staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design walk-friendly downtowns • Balanced Complete Street designs • Walking prescriptions for children • Pedestrian distance signs for local walking • Greenway running/walking paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on public & private project designs; suggest alternatives • Analysis of dangerous locations • Provide explanations of preferred pedestrian practices – good traffic signal timing, signage improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every municipality has a capital budget for walking projects • Committees working on pedestrian facility & safety issues in every town • Good signage with destination, direction & distance indications in every town
Inform elected officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided walks with local leaders • Sidewalk snow removal programs • Good Walking is Good Business workshops • Walk-friendly state policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor & secure pedestrian benefits with legislators • Adoption of Complete Streets policies • Safe Routes to School programs for all students living within walking distance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State leaders focus on pedestrian safety, facilities and connections to transit • Municipal leadership promotes pedestrian needs



National walking movement

America Walks was founded in Boston in 1996 by four pedestrian advocacy organizations as a way to share policy development, data and information, campaigns and special events.

It has been adopted by local groups, and by working with its members has established a vision statement for the country: **By 2020, walking in everyday life is embraced across America. Streets and neighborhoods are safe and attractive public places that encourage people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and incomes to walk for transportation, exercise, and recreation.** 500 organizations throughout the USA support this vision and represent 46 states!

Statewide activities

- **Transit-oriented design:** Liaison with Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA), regional planning agencies.
- **Health benefits of walking:** Work with Mass in Motion program of the State Dept. of Public Health.
- **Human-powered movement:** Collaborate with MassBike and the Boston Cyclists Union; LivableStreets; Institute for Human Centered Design.
- **Environmental approvals:** Comment statewide on walking accommodations proposed in projects such as the Everett, East Boston and Springfield casinos.
- **Statewide advocacy:** Respond to requests from all locations within the state to promote walking.
- **Complete Streets planning:** Work with agencies and local communities to affect planning.
- **Monitor design proposals:** Ensure compliance with pedestrian guidelines in all state transportation projects.
- **Financing:** Advocate for more funding for walking facilities in all state transportation projects.
- **Spread ideas:** Present and lead discussions on Health, Good Walking is Good Business, and how to build safe walking into all municipalities.

What's next

Over the coming years, WalkBoston will monitor and participate in the development of even better walking environments. To do this, we will work with communities across the state and present policy and design options for walking facilities and operations to a wide variety of audiences. We will find new partners to excite people about walking and running.

We will continue to contribute expertise to the national walking movement, and learn from the experiences of others. Together we will build the national walking vision.