



WalkBoston

# what we've done

## STREETSCAPES

**Central Artery:** Spearheaded the effort that created a pedestrian-friendly design above the Central Artery—wide sidewalks, more green space, bicycle accommodation, narrow lanes to slow vehicles, and the roadway reduced from ten lanes to six. We continue to work making sure these commitments are kept. 1994-present

**Greenway Sidewalks:** Used the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act [MEPA] to successfully challenge a developer's plan to use the public sidewalk for vehicles. The State and City reaffirmed the Greenway streetscape standards adopted in 1996/98. MEPA's decision preserved a sidewalk and led to an ongoing public review of all sidewalk impacts. Received Boston Globe editorial support. 2005/06

**Charles River Ped/Bike Bridges:** Insisted that two Big Dig bridges jeopardized by lack of funding be built, as promised. Over 100 people joined in our walk highlighting their loss. Editorials in the Boston Globe and Boston Herald supported our position. The Big Dig re-committed to building them. 2005/06

**Boston:** Designed a traffic-calming plan for Congress Street behind City Hall [to replace a proposed bridge]. Adopted by the City of Boston, it adds parking, creates safer sidewalks and crossings, plus a much larger plaza at the Old State House.

**Brookline:** Led community effort to implement traffic-calming improvements near the Driscoll School. Helped redesign Beacon Street to improve pedestrian safety.

**Cambridge:** Slowed through traffic on Holworthy Street with the installation of a raised intersection. Achieved automatic, longer WALK cycle in Harvard Square traffic signals. Added crosswalks at transit station. Better snow clearance by city.

**Quincy:** Advised on pedestrian redesign of Quincy Center and Quincy Shore Drive.

**Watertown:** Convinced Metropolitan District Commission to convert underused four-lane road along the Charles River to two travel lanes, a bike lane, and parking.

## LOCAL POLICIES & PROGRAMS

**Streetscape Guidelines for Boston's Major Roads:** Partnered with Conservation Law Foundation and the City of Boston to create publication guiding street design. 1999

**STEPS to Good Health:** Run resident programs with the Boston Public Health Commission in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, Hyde Park, South Boston, Jamaica Plain, Chinatown/South End. Assist in conducting walking audits and working with City departments for needed improvements. In elementary schools we teach safe walking habits and encourage walking—to school and as a daily activity.

**WALK Signal Policy:** Convinced the City to adopt a new traffic signal timing policy which provides for automatic WALK signals and generous walk time for pedestrians [10 year effort]. Retiming of Boston's 700 signals underway.

## MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE

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## STATEWIDE

**20-year State Transportation Plan:** Gave detailed suggestions for including pedestrian programs and funding in final Plan. Underway.

**MassHighway Project & Development Design Guide:** Key participant in rewriting State design manual. It now includes the most progressive walking and bicycling requirements in the United States. Receiving many awards. 2006

**Committees:** Footprint Roads Committee, MAPC Enhancements Committee, Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Board, State Trails and Greenways Task Force

**Trails & Greenways Network:** Founded environmental/transportation collaborative of 10 statewide organizations to create more trails and connect them to town centers, transit and schools. Became an official Massachusetts Advisory Committee. Member.

**Project Reviews:** Advocate for pedestrian interests in development and transportation projects including: InterContinental Hotel at 500 Atlantic Avenue and Lovejoy Wharf [Boston], Discovery Park [Cambridge], Target Distribution Center [Westfield], Charlestown Haul Road/Rail Feasibility Study [Boston], Lowe's Home Improvement Store [Hadley], and Longfellow Bridge and Storrow Drive [Boston and Cambridge].

## NATIONAL

**Improving Pedestrian Access to Transit:** Wrote Federal Transit Administration funded report as a teaching tool for citizens and planners who advocate for public transit and walkable neighborhoods. 40,000 copies distributed nationwide.

**America Walks:** Co-founded national coalition of 50 pedestrian groups in 1996. Members are autonomous grassroots organizations working to improve walking conditions in their area. Advisor to developing groups. WalkBoston provides ongoing leadership.

**Transportation Research Board:** Chaired Pedestrian Committee of top pedestrian professionals in the country 1998-2004. Ongoing member.



## LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

**Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Board:** Wrote language adding pedestrians to the Board. Led successful effort to get the Board appointed and underway. Board member. 2005

**Statewide Ped/Bike Law:** Requires MassHighway to build pedestrian and bike accommodation into every state-funded construction and reconstruction project. 1996

**Roadway Safety:** Argued for and serve on commission recommending changes to Registry of Motor Vehicles policies, programs and manuals to increase safety of pedestrians, bicycles and all roadway users. 2005

**Crosswalk Safety:** Passed after four years; requires motorists to stop ten feet from a pedestrian when in a marked crosswalk [changed from five]. Fine for failing to yield to pedestrians was doubled to \$200. Further, motorists who cause bodily injury in a crosswalk accident can be given a criminal or civil citation.

**Trail Funding:** Funding approved for the North Point, Belmont to Alewife, Bike to the Sea, and other trails; the legislature also acted to limit liability for property owners giving land for use as trails.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS [SRTS]

**Program:** Created the first program in New England to promote walking and bicycling to school and worked with schools in Arlington, Milton and Boston, among others.

**Toolkit:** Created the Massachusetts SRTS “toolkit” being used statewide by parents and school staff to develop local SRTS programs.

**Curriculum:** Created curricula, in collaboration with ERG Inc., for Massachusetts elementary schools to teach students—in ways that are fun, stimulating and relevant to their lives—how walking is good for their bodies and good for the environment. Every lesson plan satisfies at least two requirements of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Standards for Science, Math, Social Science or Comprehensive Health. Supported by an EPA Healthy Communities Grant.

**Legislation:** Added \$5M into 2004 State Transportation Bond Bill for grants to cities and towns for safety projects in school areas. Co-drafted 2005/06 bill to set aside \$5M annually from Federal safety funds for SRTS pedestrian and bicycle programs and infrastructure.

**National Efforts:** Steering Committee member for SRTS National Partnership consisting of 150+ organizations; member of National SRTS Clearinghouse consulting team.

## **EVENTS / WALKS / PUBLICATIONS**

**Guided Walks:** Lead year-round weekend and weekday walks in greater Boston.

**WalkTalks:** Program talks addressing design, health and advocacy topics.

**Commissioned Walking Maps:** Design map/brochures that highlight Boston's attractions, neighborhoods, and advocacy issues: e.g., Commonwealth Avenue sculptures, Avenue of the Arts, South End, MGH medical area, Rose Kennedy Greenway, Original Shawmut Peninsula, and more.

**WalkBoston Book:** Wrote *WalkBoston*, 30 walking tours in and around Boston. Published by the Appalachian Mountain Club; sold through local bookstores. 2003

**Rose Kennedy Greenway:** Demonstrated cumulative results of 16 years of helping plan the Greenway with 2 Annual Meeting walks. Over 200 attended. 2005 & 2006

**Democratic National Convention:** Former Governor Michael Dukakis led Convention delegates on foot to the Fleet Center. Received National media coverage. 2005

**Zakim Bridge:** Suggested two walks that drew nearly a million people over the bridge. Walks the Central Artery Tunnel followed. Co-sponsored with CA/T Project. 2002

**Conferences:** Speak frequently at area conferences and meetings, including: AltWheels, COHES [Coalition Organized for Health Education in Schools], Moving Together [State's annual pedestrian/ bicycle conferences], Sustainable Development Forum, and Burlington VT Pedestrian Summit.

**South Boston Waterfront:** Co-sponsored all-day conference, Streets Fit for People, to encourage design of a pedestrian streetscape in 500-acre developing area. 2001

## **AWARDS**

**America Walks Best Foot Forward Award:** for outstanding achievements in SRTS. 2006.

**Society of Behavioral Medicine's Excellence in Promoting Physical Activity:** 2005.

**America Walks Best Foot Forward Award:** for contributions to the cause of pedestrian advocacy. 2003

**National Park Service's Conservation Hero Awards:** to Dorothea Hass and Don Eunson of the Safe Routes to Schools Program. 2002

**Boston By Foot's Distinguished Friend Award:** 2000

**Design Achievement Award:** Move Massachusetts. 2000

**US Environmental Protection Agency's Transportation Partners Award:** for making smart moves for healthier transportation choices in Boston. 1998

**Boston Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence:** 1993

**WalkBoston's Golden Shoe Awards:** Awarded annually to individuals, businesses, developers, agencies, and organizations for pedestrian environment contributions.