



February 5, 2014

Chairman Brian Joyce  
Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets  
State House, Room 109D  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support for Inclusion of Active Streets in Transportation Bond Bill

Dear Chairman Joyce:

WalkBoston writes to urge you to support the “Active Streets Certification Program” that is included in the Transportation Bond Bill that was recently passed by the House (H3882). Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Jason Lewis (S68/H3091) filed a version of this language as standalone legislation.

As Massachusetts’ leading pedestrian advocacy organization, WalkBoston works with communities across the state to help them create a safer and more convenient walking environment for their residents. We see very strong interest in walking in urban, suburban and rural municipalities, and we also see communities that are having a difficult time designing and investing in sidewalks and walkways.

The program created under this proposal would encourage communities to build streets and roads that accommodate walking, bicycling and transit use – a.k.a. “Complete Streets” – by creating a small grant program for which they would become eligible after passing a Complete Streets bylaw or ordinance in addition to taking several other actions.

The presence of improved walkways and bicycle facilities encourages an active, healthy lifestyle and reduces auto dependency. In addition to health benefits, Complete Streets can boost the local economy supporting local business districts and increasing property values. While some cities and towns in Massachusetts have already taken steps to implement Complete Streets, this program would provide the necessary incentives and support to encourage even more cities and towns do so.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, 617-368-9255 or [wlandman@walkboston.org](mailto:wlandman@walkboston.org)

Best regards,

Wendy Landman  
Executive Director

**MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE**

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