

| ped advocacy 101

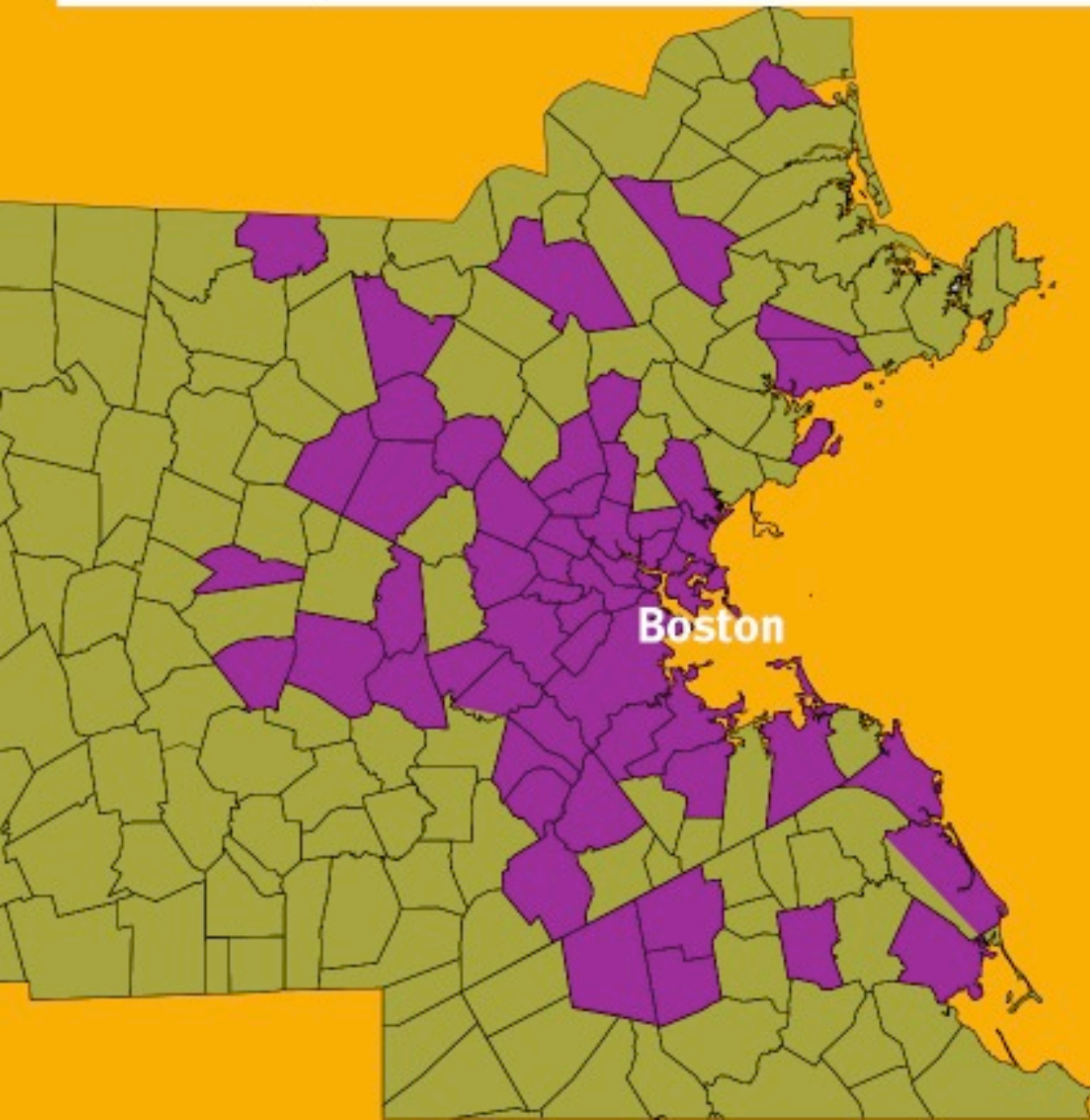
DURING THE NEXT 20 MINUTES

- who we are / what we do
- what makes a neighborhood walkable
- how you can make a difference

Making Massachusetts more walkable

WalkBoston makes walking safer and easier in Massachusetts to encourage better health, a cleaner environment and vibrant communities.

Membership distribution in Eastern Massachusetts



What makes a neighborhood walkable?

- good sidewalk design
- good street design
- safe intersections & crossings
- clean streets & maintenance

1. sidewalks



FURNISHING ZONE

SHY ZONE

WALKING ZONE

Sidewalk zones

- Furnishing zone — attractive/useful amenities and infrastructure
- Shy zone — a two foot buffer since people can't walk right up against storefronts or benches
- Walking zone — a clear walking path



Furnishing zone

- trees, benches and cafes, mail boxes, trash cans, bike racks should be confined to this area



Pedestrian obstructions

- Cambridge Street, Boston MA: Au Bon Pain
- Eliminated “walk zone” obstruction



Walking zone

- Clear of mail boxes, trash cans, trees, benches, bus shelters, cafes, sign boards, signal/sign poles, etc.
- width is based on the number of people anticipated



Walking surfaces

- flat and smooth concrete or asphalt are best
- uneven surfaces trip walkers and cause vibrations for wheelchair users



Curb Cuts

- driveways/entryways should be narrow with flat, continuous sidewalks
- limit the frequency

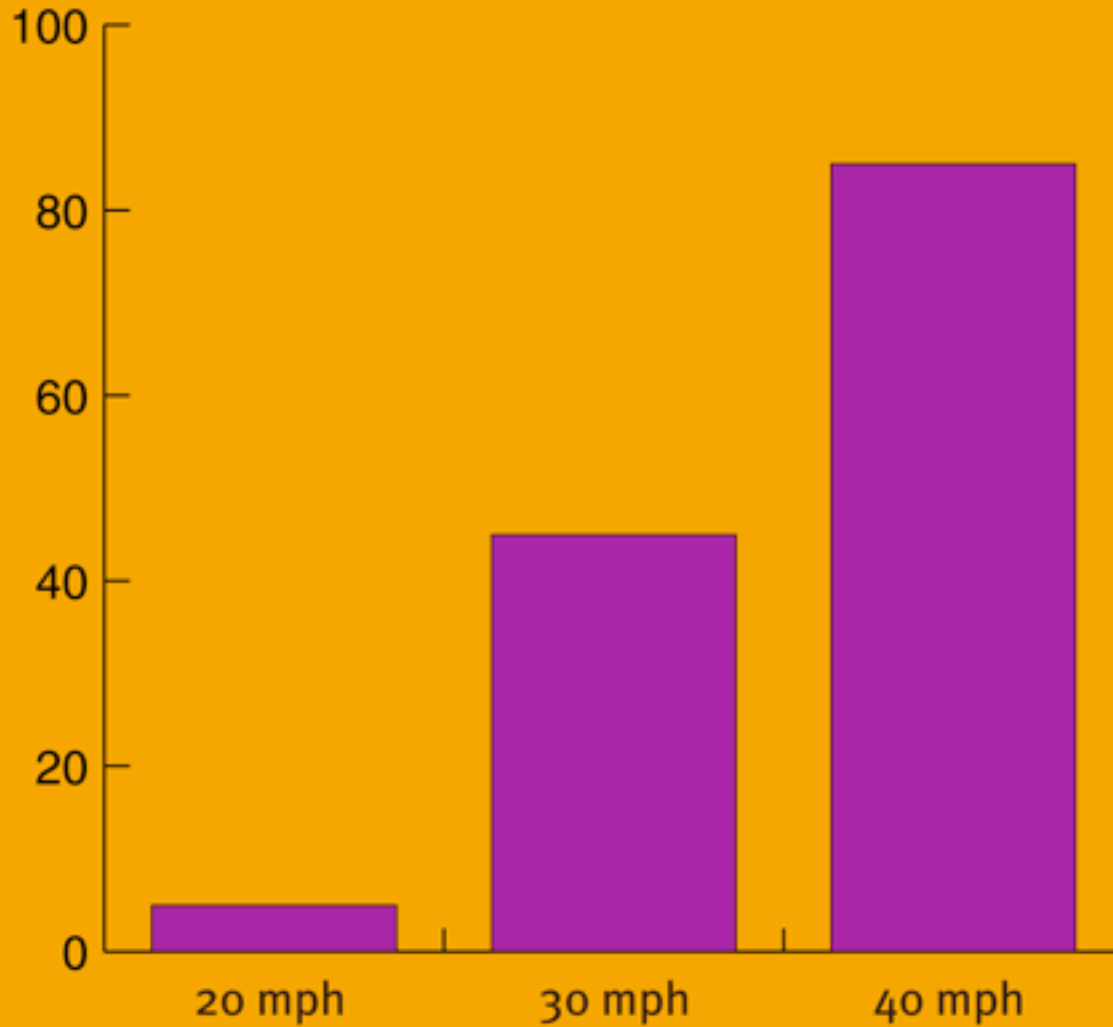


Continuous sidewalks

- Boston, MA Intercontinental Hotel
- peds shouldn't have to walk out of their way, sidewalks are not for cars

2. street design

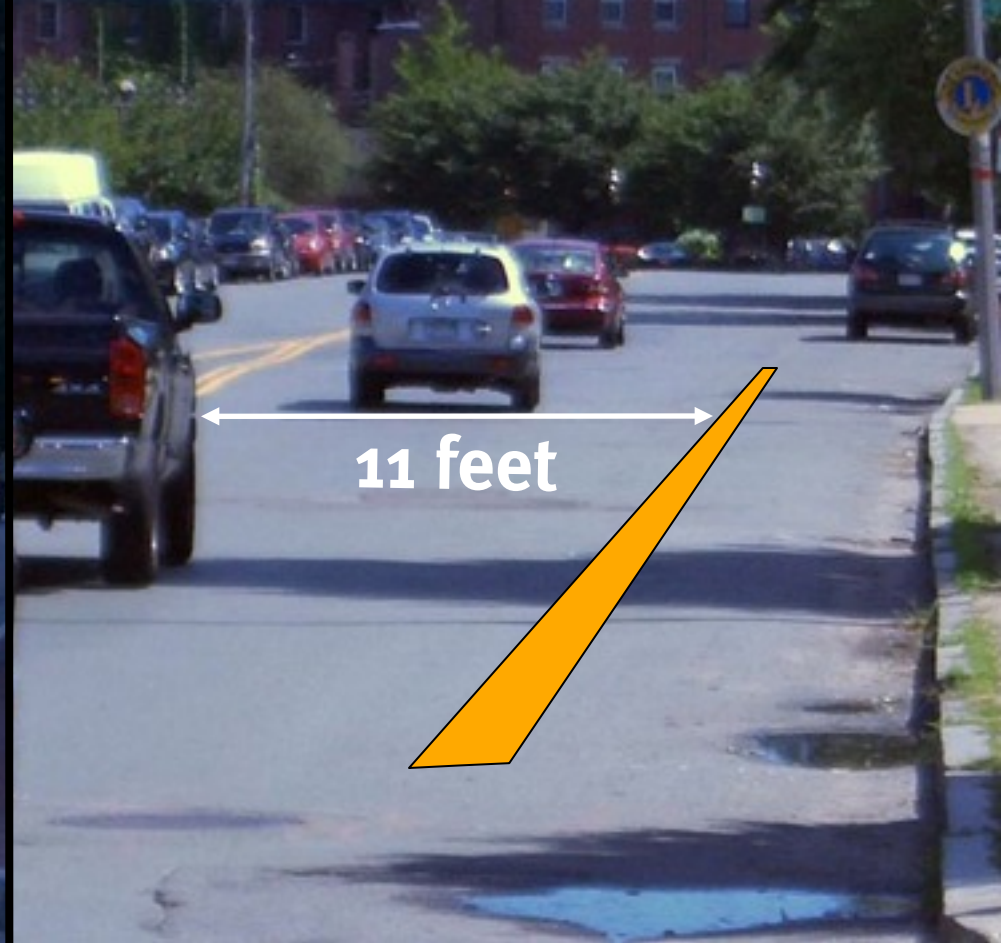
Speed kills—pedestrian probability of death



Speed
well-designed
neighborhood
streets keep
motorists at
20 or 25 mph

Elements that keep pedestrians safe

- slowing traffic speeds
- narrow lane widths
- parking buffers
- vertical elements
- raised crosswalks



Lane widths

- lanes should be no wider than 11 feet on main streets
- narrowing a travel lane from 11 feet to 10 feet reduces speed by 7 mph



Re striping

- member Gus Bailey: Watertown, MA [along riverway]
- one lane of traffic removed, bicycle lane and parking added



Parking

- buffers walkers from traffic
- slows down traffic

3. crossings & intersections

Fact:

54% of pedestrian/vehicle crashes occur at intersections. Repainting, reshaping, retiming make a big improvement.



Crosswalks

- two parallel lines is standard — ladder is better and worth the extra cost
- Advance stop line helps keep cars out of the crosswalk.
- repainted regularly to maintain safety and effectiveness



Safer crossings

- raised crosswalks are visual, acoustical and physical reminders to slow down



Curb extensions

- shorten crossing distance
- make walkers more visible to cars and cars more visible to walkers



Access to crosswalks

- keep free of street furniture, light poles etc. [infrastructure]
- these things belong in the furnishing zone with other amenities



Signal timing

- studies show that when countdown lights are installed at a high accident intersection, pedestrian accidents drop by 50%

4. making a difference



Clean streets

- Residents, merchants and municipalities can work together to keep streets and sidewalks free of debris and graffiti
- solar bins need emptying 2x's daily, traditional ones up to 15x's per day



Crosswalk maintenance

- request repainting regularly to maintain visibility and safety
- this is something you can get done easily and can ask for right now



Snow clearance

- municipalities, property owners and residents are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks & crossings



Passable sidewalks

- Sidewalks should be continuous, unobstructed and clear
- Be sure to keep your hedges and trees trimmed



Sidewalk Repair

- ask the Public Works Department to repair broken sidewalks
- be sure to give them a specific address [eg. 123 Elm Street]

Steps you can take over the next few weeks

- **Call/write** Transportation or Public Works Dept. with your request. Attach a photo to your letter. Specify an intersection or a specific address
- **Follow up by phone.** Keep a written record of names and dates when you speak with people
- Boston/Mayor's Hotline: 617.635.4500
Somerville: 311
Other cities & towns: check web for contacts

Steps you can take right now

- reporting form - download it, fill it out, mail it in
- brochure - read it to learn how to advocate effectively
- walking audit - we can conduct one for you
- trash - don't litter and pick it up
- drive courteously - yielding to pedestrians
- walk home with your neighbor today -
make plans to do it again

...and support WalkBoston

For more information

- more info at www.walkboston.org
- we can help you take action in your community
- we can connect you to professionals
- we can provide support materials

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617.367.9255 | info@walkboston.org | www.walkboston.org



MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE