
White House honors leading member of pedestrian advocacy group WalkBoston

Posted by Matt Rocheleau

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The White House honored one of the founders of a Boston-based nonprofit that advocates for improved walking conditions in Massachusetts.

(White House) Robert Sloane, a senior project manager for WalkBoston and a former assistant transportation secretary for the state, was recognized last week as one of 14 "Transportation Innovators," who were selected from candidates across the country by the White House's "Champions for Change" program.

The program "honors leaders who have devoted their time and efforts to helping their communities reach new heights through transportation innovation," according to statement from the White House.

"Transportation Innovators are individuals or organizations who have provided exemplary leadership in the growth and expansion of the transportation industry at the local, state or regional level," it said.

The award given to Sloane, a Brookline native, recognized WalkBoston's creation of popular, detailed and easy to use walking maps of Boston and nearby communities, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation said on its blog.

The maps, which debuted in 1995, offer short distance walking tour information, including historic locations, state transportation officials said. Maps designed in recent years show walks in five-minute segments that include noteworthy stops and transit stations. There are now about 60 maps and more in production.

In a post on the award program's blog on the White House website, Sloane wrote: "Walking has come to be recognized as one of the best - and certainly the cheapest - methods of maintaining personal health. Both older and younger generations are moving into places where they can walk during their regular daily activities."

Sloane served as Massachusetts Assistant Secretary of Transportation from 1984 to 1992.

Today, at WalkBoston, "he is bringing his extensive experience to bear in a way that prioritizes including the community in the development of a resource that helps people get from Point A to Point B in a timely fashion—a resource that is designed to highlight community assets and help people value the places in which they walk," the White House said in a release.

To see a list of other winners from across the country, [click here](#).

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