



### **MassBike's 2009 Accomplishments:**

- Bicyclist Safety Act signed into law
- Completed a study of bikeability in five Boston neighborhoods
- Launched new MassBike Calendar using Google Calendar, featuring public meetings statewide, part of our new focus on public engagement
- Organized and led the MA delegation to the National Bike Summit
- Played leading role in promoting Bay State Bike Week and National Bike Month
- Cape Cod and Islands Chapter held first Cape Cod Bicycle Forum
- Helped MassHighway draft new statewide rumble strip policy that is more bike-friendly
- Conducted online Safety Survey of almost 1800 bicyclists and motorists
- Ran Pump & Lube Stations to encourage bicycle commuting
- Forest Hills bike cage opened (with other advocates and the T) and the T removed the last restriction on folding bikes
- Replaced our popular but aging website: blogging, Facebook, and Twitter to reach more people more effectively
- Pioneer Valley Chapter got bike racks on last 29 PVTA buses, now 100% rack-equipped
- Launched Same Roads Same Rules campaign
- Continued statewide advocacy efforts on MABPAB, Trails and Greenways Task Force, SRTS Task Force, and project-specific advocacy delivering testimony and written comments
- Taught bicycling skills and safety classes to 3020 people, including adult classes, commuter workshops, and Safe Routes to School
- Valet parked over 500 bicycles at events to encourage bicycle transportation
- Expanded MassBike Spins Ride Series to 27 rides

### **MassBike's Campaigns for 2010:**

- Vulnerable Road Users Bill, which would increase penalties for motorists who injure or kill bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users. It would also make it easier to prosecute those motorists.
- Major spring push on Same Roads, Same Rules campaign
- Safe Routes to School Train-the-Trainer program,
- Campaign to relax MBTA peak hour restrictions for bicycles
- Bay State Bike Week

Contact:

Shane Jordan

Director of Education and Outreach

Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition

[shane@massbike.org](mailto:shane@massbike.org)

617-542-2453



WalkBoston

# our work

WalkBoston engages in a wide array of efforts to make Massachusetts more walkable for everyday activities – walking to transit, to school, to shop and to work. We focus our advocacy to benefit those who most depend on walking: people with lower incomes, elders, children, people with disabilities, and transit users.

**Advocacy Training** – through slide shows, walks and conversations with citizens, engineers, planners and agency staff, we work to excite interest and engagement from a broad variety of residents and professionals in becoming pedestrian advocates in their own communities.

**Boston** – we advocate in the city on many issues: traffic signal timing, neighborhood walking conditions, active transportation as part of the Boston Collaborative for Food & Fitness, Complete Streets policies to balance the needs of walkers, transit users, bicyclists and vehicles on our streets, and preserving the walkability of the Greenway.

**Outreach** – we work to get people walking and thinking about walking throughout Massachusetts using many tools: maps (new this year: Watertown, Harvard University, Walpole, Braintree, Malden, Cathedral Housing...and more); walks throughout the region (many led by state legislators); (PARK)ing Day's one-day celebratory transformation of a parking space into a pocket park; environmental and transportation fairs; presentations at local, state and national conferences; and learning for the future through our Federal Transit Administration research into engaging walkers/transit users in transit planning along the Route 39 bus route in JP.

**Statewide Project Review** – our reviews help ensure that transportation and development projects provide good pedestrian environments. This year, we paid especially close attention to the road and bridge projects funded with federal stimulus dollars and the MA Accelerated Bridge Program, most notably the Charles River Basin bridges. We are working with fellow advocates to advance a vision of bridge and road designs that safely and attractively accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, persons with disabilities and transit users, while helping to create a transportation future that reduces our dependence on vehicular traffic.

**Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)** – we provide 2<sup>nd</sup> grade safety education at individual schools across the state, carry out the Community SRTS program with Brockton, Newton, Stoneham and Watertown, and participate actively in the MA SRTS Task Force, and the Steering Committee of the SRTS National Partnership.

**Smart Growth/Transit Oriented Development** – as our attention turns to large-scale land use and climate change, we have begun to work with new partners to help shape development patterns and advocate for transit, a critical element of walkable communities.

**Snow** – sidewalk snow and ice clearance tops the agenda for many of our members. We share policy recommendations on snow clearance and are working with Somerville, Newton and Watertown, as well as state legislators to advance this important issue locally and statewide.

**2009 Transportation Reform Legislation** – WalkBoston worked with legislators and other advocates to ensure that walking, health, and sidewalk snow clearance were included in the Act. We are participating as the Healthy Transportation Compact created by the Act gets underway with the Massachusetts Departments of Transportation, Health and Human Services and Energy and Environment. Our key 2010 legislative priority is the passage of an Act to reduce the prevailing speed limit in urbanized areas from 30 mph to 25 mph – a critical pedestrian safety measure.

**MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE**

Old City Hall | 45 School Street | Boston MA 02108 | T: 617.367.9255 | F: 617.367.9285 | [info@walkboston.org](mailto:info@walkboston.org) | [www.walkboston.org](http://www.walkboston.org)

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Related Activities of MAPC**

### **Regional Bicycle Share Program**

MAPC is working with the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville and the Town of Brookline to develop a regional bicycle share program. The Montreal BIXI system has been selected to operate the program. BIXI Boston is anticipated to begin in July 2010 with 1,000-2,500 bicycles, depending on funding obtained.

### **Regional Bike Rack Program**

The Regional Bike Rack Program provides communities in MAPC's region with the opportunity to purchase bike racks or related equipment and receive full reimbursement for the purchase. Over 9,000 bicycle parking spaces have been installed to date in over 70 MAPC communities.

### **Regional Pedestrian Plan**

MAPC is finalizing the draft of its Regional Pedestrian Plan. The Plan will identify and recommend policies and practices to facilitate and encourage walking as a convenient, safe, and practical form of transportation. Policies that promote best practices in design of both pedestrian facilities and land use and urban will be announced.

### **Local Planning Studies**

MAPC assists communities at the local level to help recommend components of projects or develop plans. Here is an example of recent efforts that involved pedestrian or bicycle components.

#### ***Alewife Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study***

Completed in May 2009, the Alewife Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study provides recommendations for improving pedestrian and bicycle access to Alewife Station. This study identifies current conditions in and around the station, current proposals in planning or design, and recommended short and long term projects and actions.

#### ***Weymouth Landing Planning Study***

This district is located on the border of Weymouth and Braintree and is now served by a new commuter rail stop on the Greenbush Line. This comprehensive planning study recommends geometric changes to the roadways to provide for wider sidewalks, significantly reduced curb radii at intersections, and lane reductions.

#### ***Arlington Center***

MAPC helped make recommendations on geometric and traffic lane changes to better accommodate bicycles and pedestrians connecting the gap in the Minuteman Trail at Arlington Center.

# **Bicycle and Pedestrian Related Activities of Boston Region MPO Staff**

## **Data Collection and Analysis**

Mapping and analysis of crash data. On-road and trail counts in the Boston MPO region since mid-70's; counts of major trails statewide since 2007. Available on Boston MPO website: [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org).

## **General Bicycle-Pedestrian Studies**

MetroWest; Minuteman–Charles River Bikeway Connector; North Shore Bikeway; Somerville–Boston Path Extension; Route 9, Newton Highlands, Pedestrian Access; MetroWest Bicycle Compatibility Index; Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements in Town Centers; Improving Pedestrian and Bicyclist Access to Selected Transit Stations; Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements in Six Urban Centers.

## **General Transportation Studies**

Bicycle and pedestrian modes included in ongoing, regionwide Congestion Management Program and the new Coordinated Technical Assistance to Communities. For the latter, studies have been done or are ongoing for Arlington, Millis, Walpole and Wrentham.

## **Liaison**

Involved with the MA Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Board, the Trails and Greenways Task Force, and local organizations.

## **Studies of Trails**

Minuteman Commuter Bikeway; Bike-to-the Sea (Strand, on the East Saugus Branch); Assabet River Rail Trail; Central Mass (Waltham to Berlin); Bruce Freeman Trail (Lowell-Sudbury & Sudbury-Framingham); Saxonville Branch; Stoneham portion of Tri-Community Path.

## **Walkable Community Workshops**

MPO staff have given workshops in the following 29 municipalities since 2003: Acton, Arlington, Bellingham, Belmont, Beverly, Bolton, Brookline, Chelsea, Framingham, Franklin, Hopkinton, Hudson, Hull, Ipswich, Lexington, Malden, Maynard, Norwell, Rockland, Rockport, Saugus, Scituate, Somerville, Stoneham, Stow, Wayland, Wellesley, Westwood, and Wrentham. Several slots are available for the 2010 program.