



creating safe, active, and livable
communities

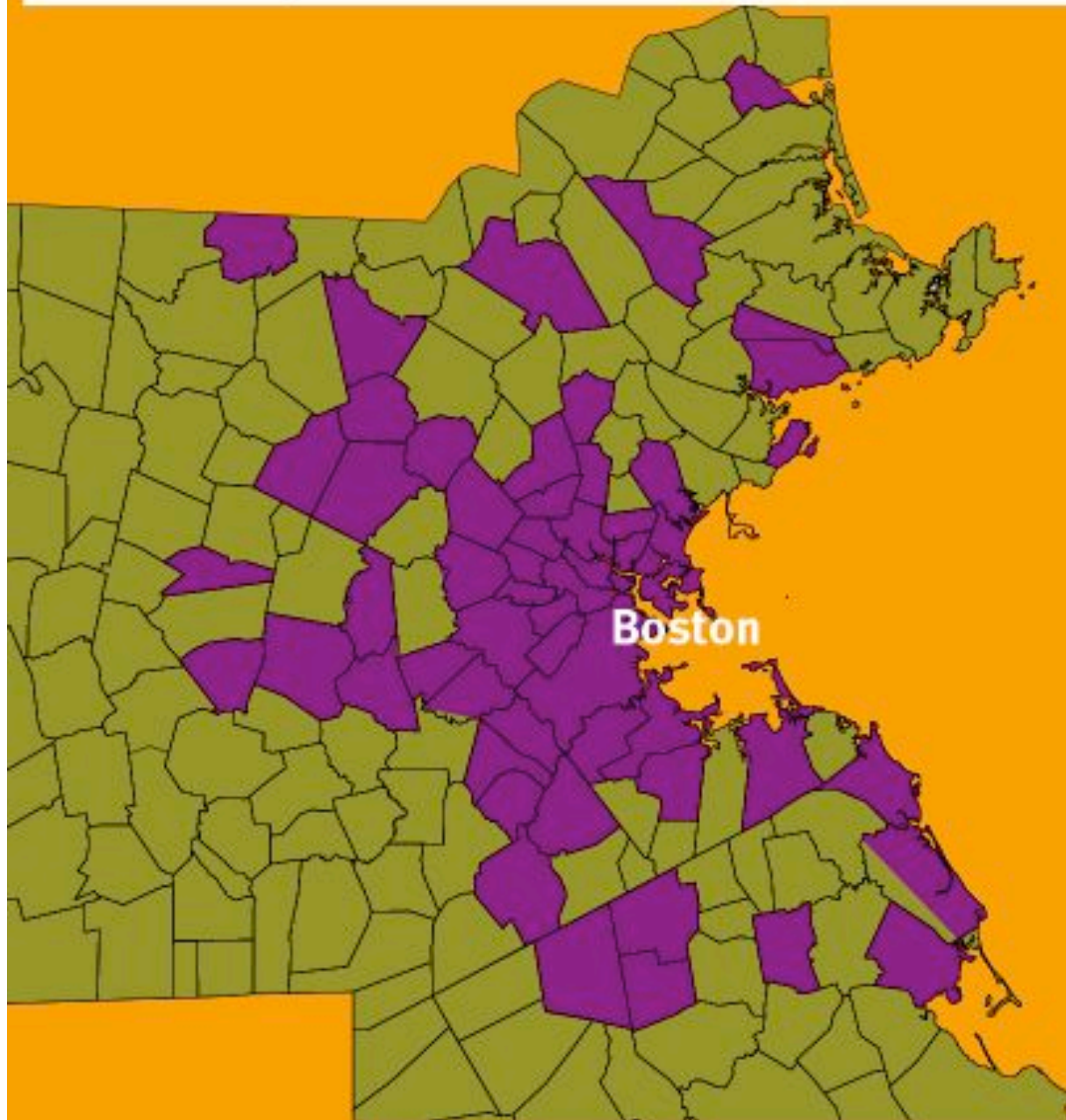
- 1. who we are/what we do**
- 2. reviewing local projects**
- 3. becoming a local advocate**

1. who we are/what we do

our mission:

WalkBoston encourages walking throughout Massachusetts for transportation, health and vibrant communities. Our education and advocacy programs give voice to citizens to make their communities walkable.

Membership distribution in Eastern Massachusetts



creating more walkable communities

- sidewalk and public realm design
- safe street crossings - crosswalks, signals, awareness
- traffic taming - speed limits, narrow lanes, on-street parking, street trees, raised crosswalks
- walker-friendly legislation
- project review is a key tool

encouraging people to walk

- safe routes to school
- walking prescriptions for people and communities
- walking maps
- employer based programs
- tourist/visitor projects
- leading walks

Choosing a walking route

These routes are designed to let you leave the hospitals and institutions behind and explore the adjacent South End neighborhood. Many sides of the community are highlighted—charming residential squares, public buildings, the SOWA [South of Washington Street] arts/gallery district, and Restaurant Row. Routes range from 1-3 miles, progressing in length as the route numbers increase. Choose a walk that fits the time you have available and the sights you want to see, or make it a goal to walk all six.

Running your errands

The South End has convenient shops, banks, drug stores, dry cleaners and restaurants—great for running quick errands. A lunchtime walk is a perfect opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise while doing your errands. Shopping at the end of your walk means you will not carry things the whole way.

Finding transit connections

The BMC/BUMC campus has many transit options within easy walking distance [1 mile = 20-25 minutes].

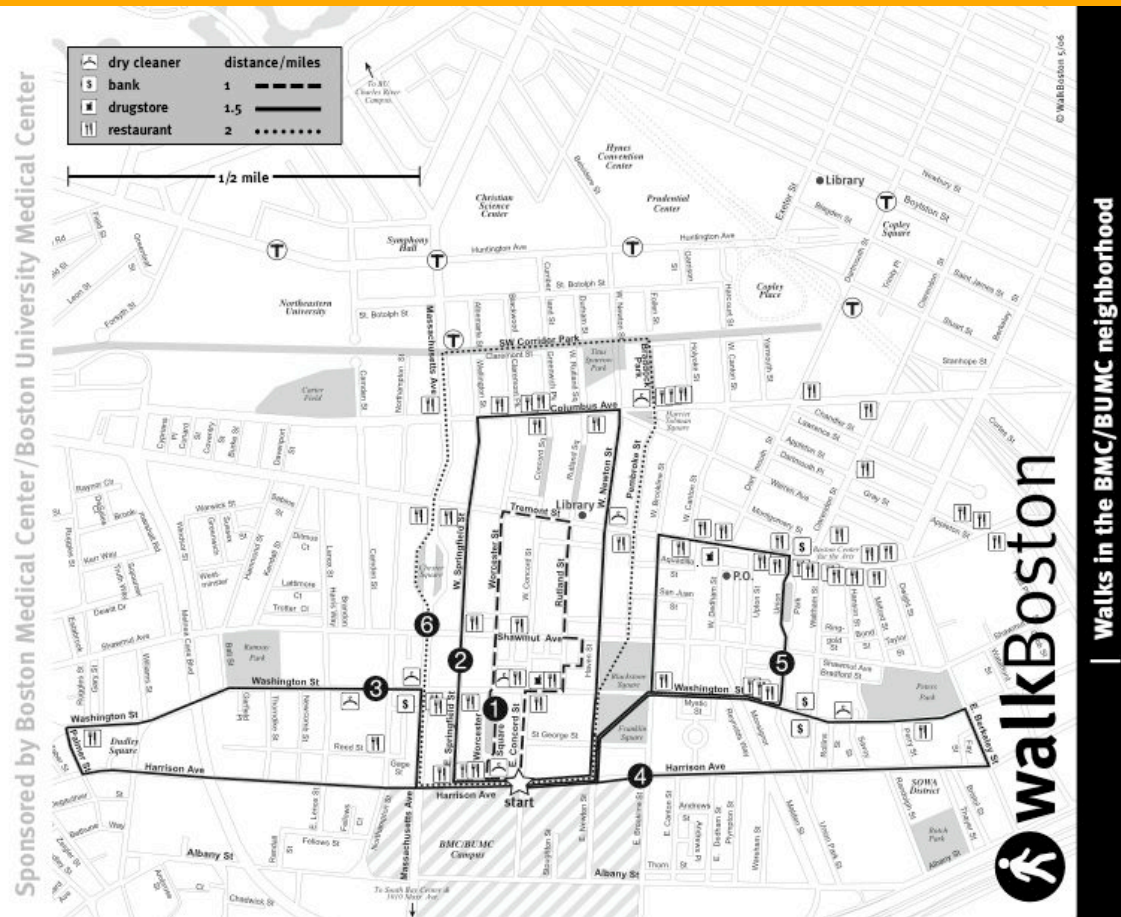
- Washington Street Silver Line – one block
- Massachusetts Avenue Orange Line Station – 1 mile
- Back Bay Orange Line/Commuter Rail Station – 1.1 mile
- Symphony Green Line Station – 1.2 mile
- Prudential Center Green Line Station – 1.2 mile
- Copley Square Green Line Station – 1.3 mile
- Boston University Charles River Campus – 3.5 miles

About WalkBoston

In its 16 years, WalkBoston has worked on design improvements for pedestrians, education about walkers' needs and the delights and possibilities of walking. BMC/BUMC employees get a 10% membership discount. Join online at www.walkboston.org.



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employee walking map for BMC/BUMC

wellness programs



Walk Your Way to Health – BMC Walking Program

Walking Log – Keep track of the distance you have walked during the week using your log sheet. At the end of the 6th week, send your sheet to the benefits office at 85 East Concord Street, 2nd Floor. Employees who have completed the 6 week program, will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Name: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Week 1 – Start taking a daily 10-minute walk, or more if you are able.

Walk Route	Date	Miles	Time
Weekly Total			

Week 2 – Start adding 10 to 20 minutes to your walks.

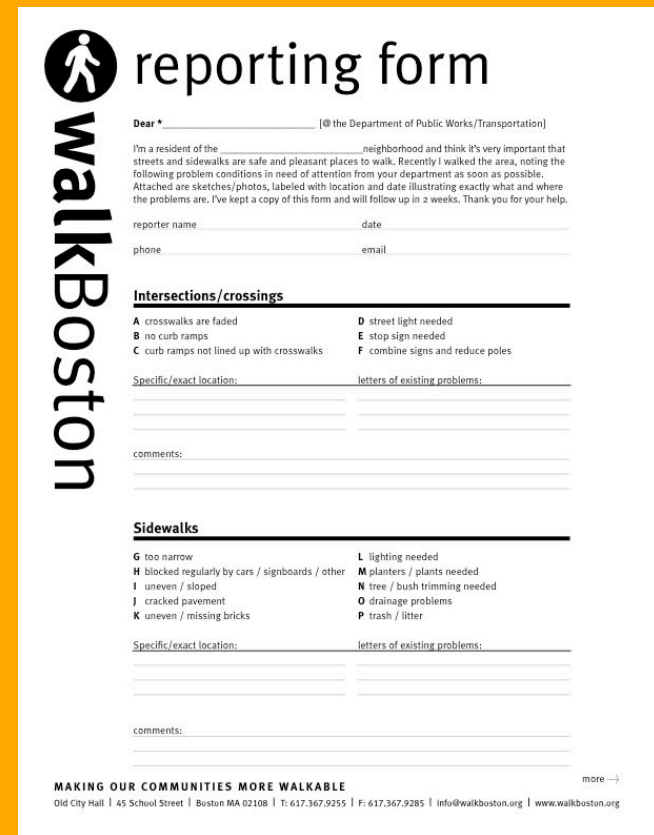
Walk Route	Date	Miles	Time
Weekly Total			

Week 3 – Build up to a 20-30 minute walk on most days of the week.

Walk Route	Date	Miles	Time
Weekly Total			

giving voice to citizens

- “pedestrian advocacy 101”
- making a more walkable community brochure
- reporting form
- opportunities for volunteering
- working with neighborhood groups and project review committees



The image shows a 'walkBoston reporting form'. On the left is the WalkBoston logo, which consists of a stylized pedestrian icon in a circle above the text 'walkBoston' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is the title 'reporting form' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is a 'Dear *' field with a line for a name and a note in brackets: '[@ the Department of Public Works/Transportation]'. This is followed by a paragraph of introductory text: 'I'm a resident of the _____ neighborhood and think it's very important that streets and sidewalks are safe and pleasant places to walk. Recently I walked the area, noting the following problem conditions in need of attention from your department as soon as possible. Attached are sketches/photos, labeled with location and date illustrating exactly what and where the problems are. I've kept a copy of this form and will follow up in 2 weeks. Thank you for your help.' Below this is a form with fields for 'reporter name', 'date', 'phone', and 'email'. The form is divided into two main sections: 'Intersections/crossings' and 'Sidewalks'. Each section has a list of problem categories (A-F for intersections, G-O for sidewalks) and a 'Specific/exact location:' field with a line for 'letters of existing problems:'. There are also 'comments:' fields at the end of each section. At the bottom of the form, there is a footer with the text 'MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE' and contact information: 'Old City Hall | 45 School Street | Boston MA 02108 | T: 617.367.9255 | F: 617.367.9285 | info@walkboston.org | www.walkboston.org'. A 'more →' link is also present.

walkBoston reporting form

Dear * _____ [@ the Department of Public Works/Transportation]

I'm a resident of the _____ neighborhood and think it's very important that streets and sidewalks are safe and pleasant places to walk. Recently I walked the area, noting the following problem conditions in need of attention from your department as soon as possible. Attached are sketches/photos, labeled with location and date illustrating exactly what and where the problems are. I've kept a copy of this form and will follow up in 2 weeks. Thank you for your help.

reporter name _____ date _____
phone _____ email _____

Intersections/crossings

A crosswalks are faded D street light needed
B no curb ramps E stop sign needed
C curb ramps not lined up with crosswalks F combine signs and reduce poles

Specific/exact location: _____ letters of existing problems: _____

comments: _____

Sidewalks

G too narrow L lighting needed
H blocked regularly by cars / signboards / other M planters / plants needed
I uneven / sloped N tree / bush trimming needed
J cracked pavement O drainage problems
K uneven / missing bricks P trash / litter

Specific/exact location: _____ letters of existing problems: _____

comments: _____

more →

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2. reviewing local projects - and making them more walkable

what we review

- mixed-use projects
- some large new schools
- projects that tout their pedestrian elements
- transportation projects
- projects at important pedestrian locations



walkBoston

April 27, 2007

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Rodney Sinclair
Boston Redevelopment Authority
Boston City Hall, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Comments on 120 Kingston Street Environmental Notification Form and Project Notification Form

EOEA # 13367

Dear Msrs. Bowles and Sinclair:

We have reviewed the 120 Kingston Street ENF and PNF, which proposes 180 housing units at 120 Kingston Street and 48-52 housing units on a vacant lot between Oxford and Ping On Streets in Chinatown. The Oxford Street construction is linked to the Kingston Street building as a way of providing affordable housing units for the Chinatown community.

120 Kingston Street is a proposed 29-story building of 279,230 gross square feet adjacent to, and incorporating portions of the façade of the existing Dainty Dot (Auchmuty) Building. The project abuts the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the new Chinatown Park that are built above the tunnel of the Central Artery. The principal façade of the new building will be set on a diagonal parallel with the Greenway. Retail uses are proposed for the ground floor along Essex Street, and include a possible restaurant with a terrace overlooking the Chinatown Park.

The principal pedestrian entrance to the new residences will be located on Kingston Street. Access to retail uses will be from Essex Street and at the Essex/Kingston corner. Sidewalks are retained in their current widths on the two sides of the structure facing Essex and Kingston Streets.

No direct pedestrian access to the Greenway from the site is shown in the preliminary designs described in the document. The relationship between the site and the Greenway is made quite difficult because the new structure sits behind a 6' high Greenway park wall now under construction along the site boundary. The Greenway sidewalk is being constructed by the CA/T with walkers in mind. It is extensively landscaped to promote pedestrian use.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE

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important issues

- connectivity to existing, or future pedestrian network
- internal mix and relationship of uses
- transit
- pedestrian amenities
- programs to encourage walking

connectivity

- sidewalks along all streets
 - interior and exterior
- connect to nearby paths, trails, sidewalks
- fill in gaps in the network
- connections to schools, shopping, elder housing, etc. etc. - think about the future and a truly interconnected pedestrian network



internal mix and relationship of uses

- mix of uses should be fine grained
- concentrate higher density of uses to create walkable neighborhoods
- think about connections to adjacent uses
- make streets real streets so that development does not end up “facing” parking lots
- create safe walking routes within parking areas
- bring buildings to the street (not behind parking lots)

transit ... a key to walking

- safe access via sidewalks or paths
- safe street crossings
- coordination with transit provider
- locate stops to maximize access (bus)
- locate development to maximize access (transit/rail)
- lighting, snow clearance, maintenance, bus shelters - year-round use!

pedestrian amenities & calm traffic



- wide, smooth sidewalks
 - buffer sidewalks from heavy traffic
 - street trees and landscaping
 - street furniture
 - level sidewalks - minimize curb cuts
-
- slow the traffic - narrow lanes, on-street parking, raised crosswalks, tight curb radii
 - contribution to major elements such as bridges



too many curb cuts make walking difficult



compact driveways and flat sidewalks are better for walking

programs to encourage walking



- safe routes to school
- safe routes for elders
- walking maps
- walking programs - employee wellness, visitors, clubs
- discounts for no car/one-car households
- market rates for parking

3. becoming a local advocate

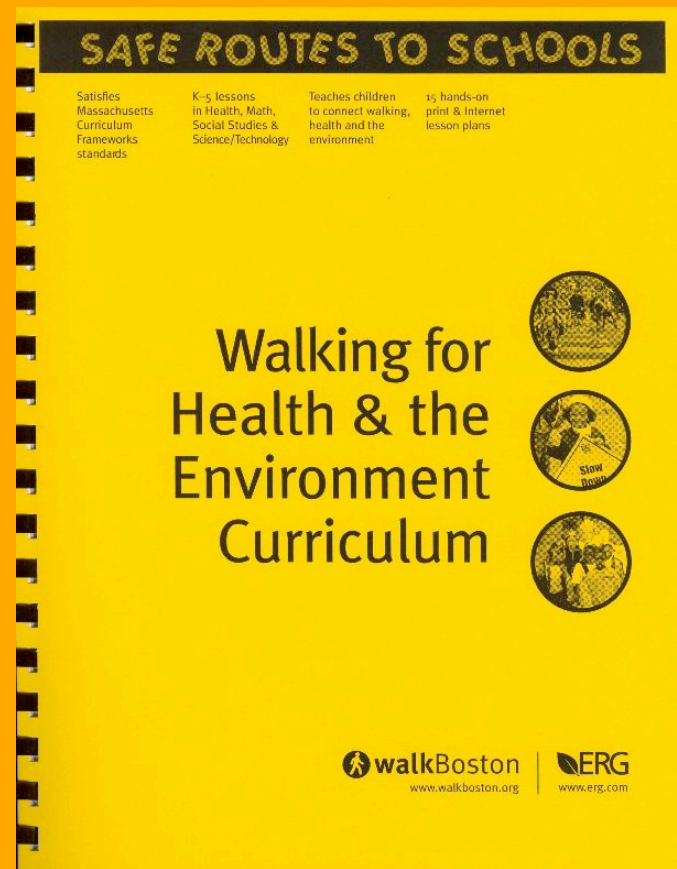
get involved

- look at projects in your own community and bring your concerns to planning, zoning or health boards
- do a walking audit of your own neighborhood or town center
- encourage your local elementary school to participate in a safe routes to school program



WalkBoston can help!

- bring “ped advocacy 101” to your town or neighborhood association
- provide copies of our brochures and reporting forms
- lead a walk with your local legislator and raise awareness of local issues



About WalkBoston

WalkBoston is a non-profit membership organization that encourages walking throughout Massachusetts for transportation, health and vibrant communities. Our education and advocacy programs give voice to citizens to make their communities walkable.

WalkBoston's advocacy on behalf of pedestrians began in 1990 when a handful of like-minded citizens decided they would be more effective speaking out collectively than as individuals. Sixteen years later, WalkBoston has grown to more than 600 members in 65 cities and towns, supported by some 73 corporate/organizational members.

Most impressive is WalkBoston's lengthy record of getting cities and towns, state agencies, developers, institutions, and elected officials to recognize and accommodate the needs of walkers.

Every additional voice helps WalkBoston's message to be heard. We welcome your advocacy efforts and your individual and corporate memberships. To become a member or get more information about WalkBoston and pedestrian advocacy, visit www.walkboston.org.

How we can help

- Advise on improvements for your community.
- Provide guidance, moral support and technical assistance.
- Present a speakers program on pedestrian design and advocacy.
- Help set up advocacy groups and make them stronger.

Visit walkboston.org for tools, publications and other resources on how to be an effective walking advocate.

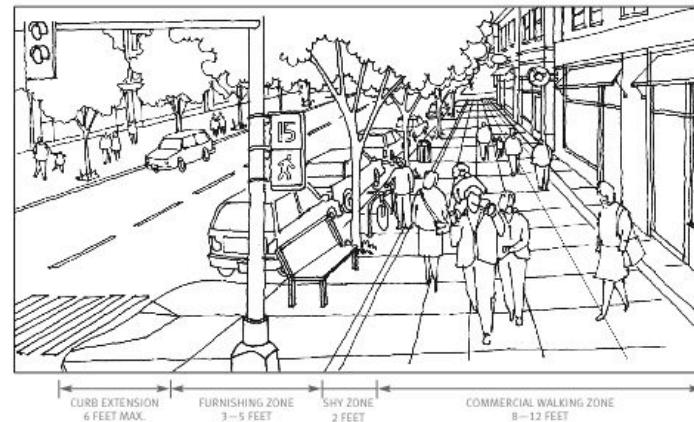
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making
a more
walkable
community



Citizen Advocacy: A crucial step toward a better walking environment

Walkability has long been a cornerstone of a livable community. The traditional New England town, built around a town square, is the quintessential walkable community. Homes, shops, businesses and public transit, all within walking distance of one another, help to make a place desirable to live, work, visit and play.

Many U.S. cities and early suburbs also have these advantages, but in the latter half of the 20th century, they became less common as population spread out and Americans relied mostly on cars for transportation. Moreover, transportation budgets, planning and policies largely favor the movement of traffic over that of pedestrians.

But, walkability is re-emerging as a key ingredient desired in communities. People value its benefits of lower transportation costs, greater social interaction, improved personal and environmental health, and expanded consumer choice.

Yet walkability cannot be taken for granted, and poorly designed places can be unsafe and even deter walking. That's where you—an active citizen—can play a vital role in making sure your community is walker-friendly.

How? It's easy. As you walk around your community, think about what changes would make your route more walkable. Then make them happen. Take your concerns to public officials and community leaders and insist that they take the necessary steps to provide a safe and pleasant walking environment.

This pamphlet contains some of the basics that have made WalkBoston the premier pedestrian advocacy organization in the country. Use them to improve the walkability of your community.

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS. —Margaret Mead

**join WalkBoston and add your voice to
creating safe, active, and livable
communities**

www.walkboston.org

617-367-9255

wendy landman