

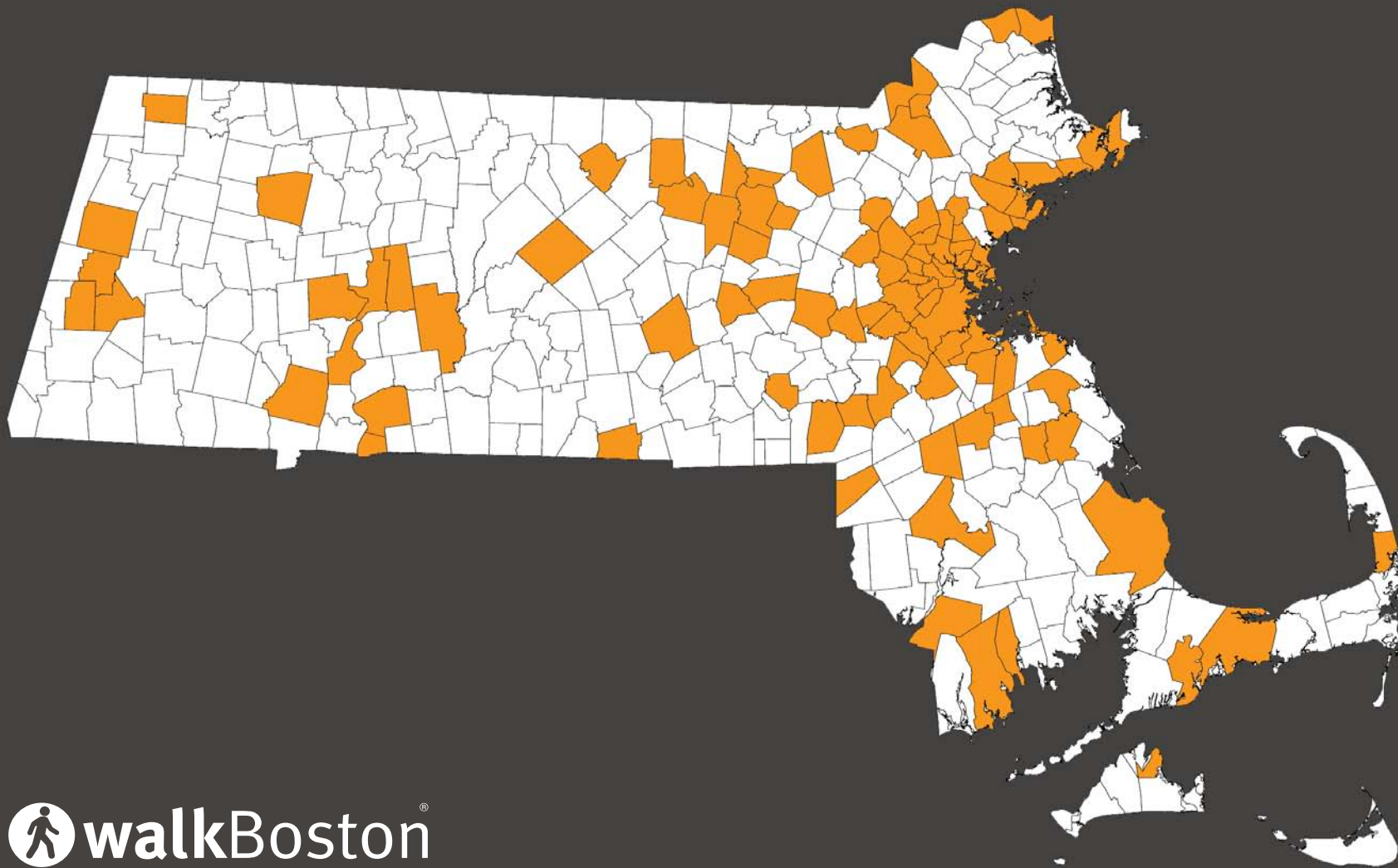


walk audit methodology

Who we are

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

WalkBoston works with communities across the Commonwealth





we connect
people to
walking



MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE

our work by the numbers...

101 of 351 municipalities

have been helped by WalkBoston programs

10,000 2nd graders

learned how to walk safely in 50 municipalities

\$10 billion worth of projects

reviewed for walkability on 28 real estate project designs

62 walking maps

prepared with municipalities

18,700 children

walked in 8 municipal Safe Routes to School programs

96 golden shoes

awarded to walking advocates

21 communities

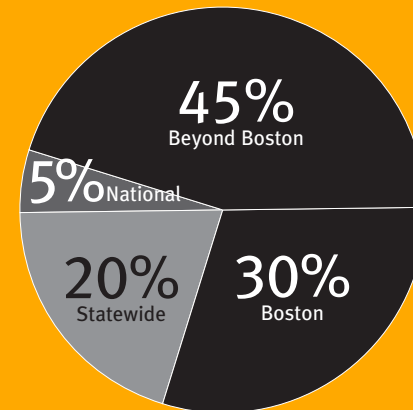
provided with advocacy training for residents

43 walking audits

led with residents in 15 communities

\$3,450 on kickstarter

raised to match a grant for a Revere walking map



...and by location

24 years of connecting local, state and national efforts to advocate for change

Since 1990 when WalkBoston became the first pedestrian advocacy group in the country, people have looked to us to lead the way on walkability issues in Massachusetts and nationally.

On the local level, we develop effective programs by reaching out to communities and responding to their requests for assistance and technical advice.

On the state level, we work with cities, towns and statewide groups, and serve as the primary pedestrian voice on many transportation and health projects.

On the national level, we co-founded America Walks, which represents and speaks out for walkers nationally. Today, it includes pedestrian advocacy groups that represent over 50,000 people and it leads the Everybody Walks Collaborative.

Technical assistance



Steps for the Weymouth walk audits

- Identify locations for the audits based on accident data
- **Meet with Weymouth seniors to learn about key walking issues**
- Outline the audits to provide information focused on improving walking conditions for Weymouth seniors
- Provide detailed information about the elements of the pedestrian environment to municipal staff
- Carry out audits and evaluate the safety and quality of the walking experience
- Develop recommendations about long and short-term improvements

Participants can include:

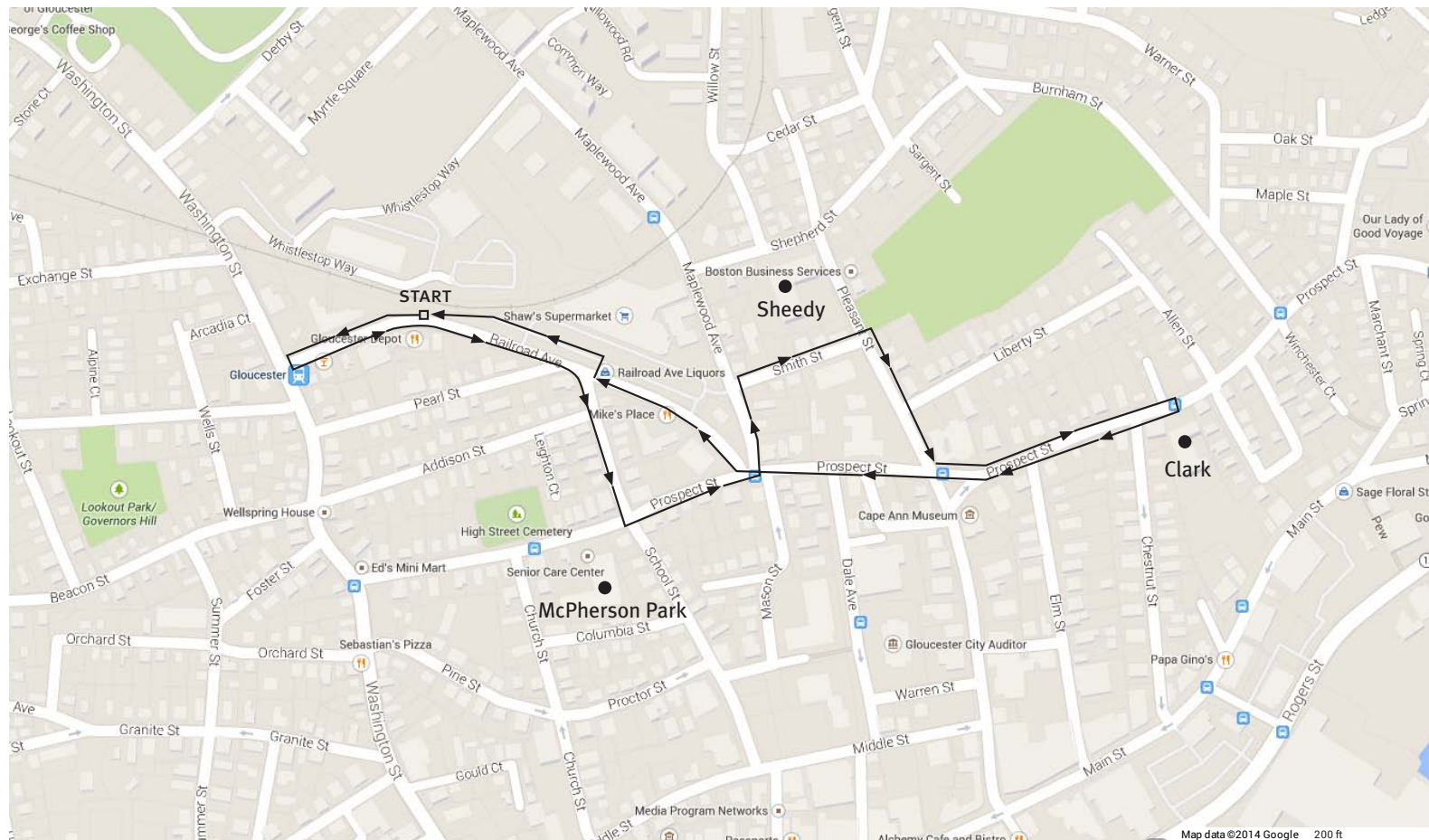
- Municipal officers
- Public Works
- Planning
- Engineering
- Public Health
- Parks and Recreation
- Council of Aging
- School Board
- Police
- Advocacy Groups
- Neighborhood groups
- Business community
- Concerned citizens



6 steps to a walk audit

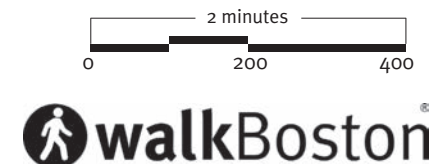
1. Choose an assessment area or walking route
2. Conduct a site visit prior to the official walk audit or workshop to identify positive and negative aspects of the area
3. Review the basics of the pedestrian environment
4. Conduct the walk audit
5. Discuss walk audit experience
6. Prepare summary report of findings

Step 1 – Assessment area



Safe Routes for Seniors - Gloucester, MA
walk audit map

May 21, 2014



Step 2 – Site visit/Audit “dry run”



Good - continuous sidewalk, narrow driveway, tight curb radii, tree-lined street



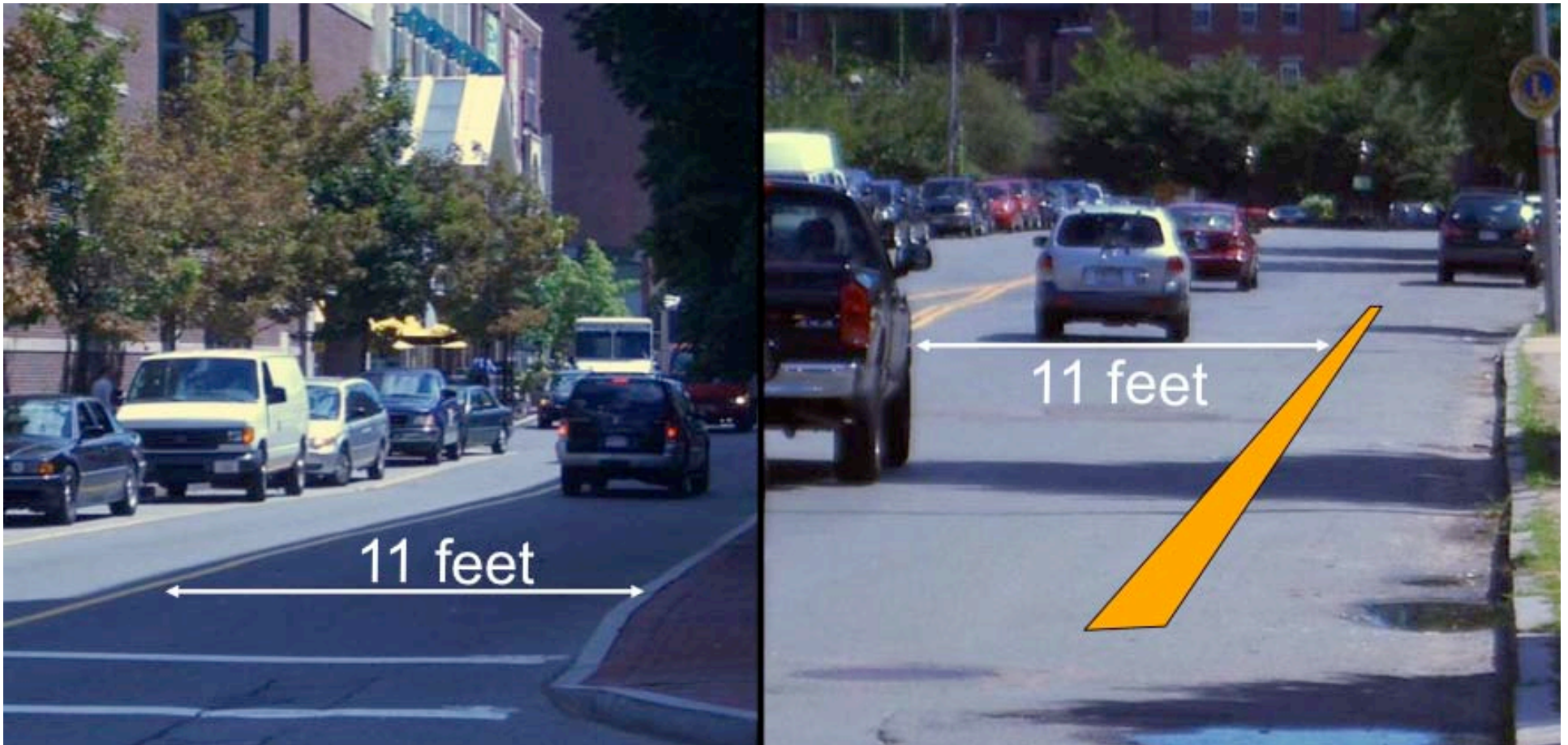
Needs attention – no curb ramp, wide driveway, narrow sidewalk, broken asphalt

Step 3 – Pedestrian Environment 101



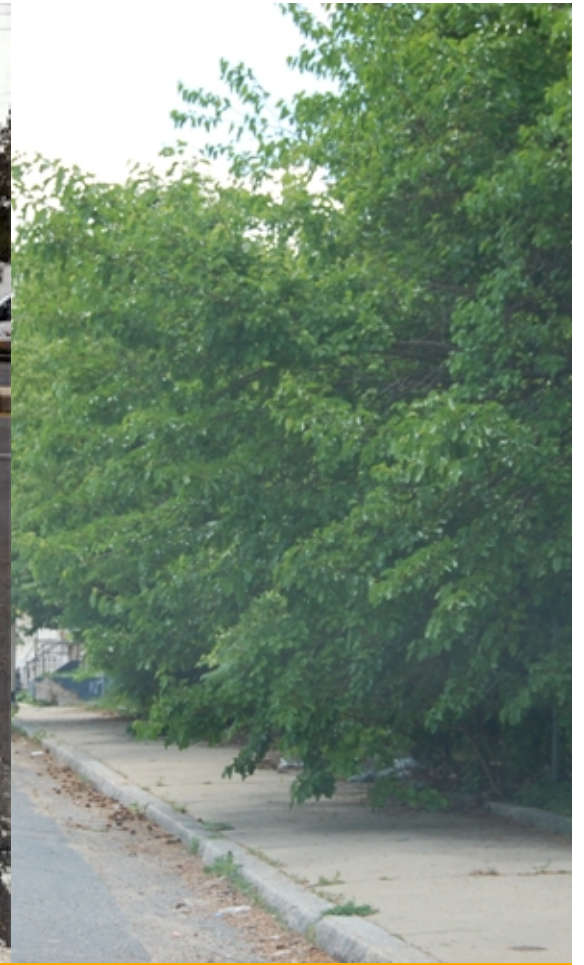
Good Sidewalk Design

- Wide, smooth, even and unobstructed
- Buffered from traffic with trees, street furniture, and on-street parking
- Limited curb-cuts



Good Street Design

- Appropriate speed for pedestrian safety (signs, lane width)
- Tight corners, narrow driveway and parking lot entrances
- Vertical elements (trees, signs, lights)
- Correctly spaced and located crosswalks to serve walkers' needs



Well-Maintained Streets and Sidewalks

- Snow and ice removal is crucial for year-round walkability
- Crosswalks should be repainted regularly
- Property owners need to trim trees and hedges

Step 4 – Walk audit

Participants walk along established route and identify positive and negative elements found in the pedestrian environment

- Traffic speed
- Crosswalks
- Pedestrian countdown signals
- Sidewalks
- Parking
- Trees, benches, trash receptacles, etc.

Step 4 – Walk audit

Walk Audit Form

Recorder _____

Date/Time _____

Weather _____

Street/Intersection _____

Street Description

Arterial or Local

Number of travel lanes

Parking: none, one, or both sides?

Sidewalks: none, one, or both sides?

Speed & Driver Behavior

Estimated speed of cars?

Speed limit posted?

Are walkers separated from roadway?

Do drivers yield to pedestrians? Do pedestrians step out in front of cars?

Neighborhood Features

Land use: residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed use?

Are there community facilities (schools, parks, businesses, etc.) and sidewalks that connect them?

Public transportation: stations, shelter, seating, lighting?

Bike paths? Are there bicycle/pedestrian conflicts?

Sketch

Sketch the street or intersection. Note positive aspects and areas in need of improvement.

Step 5 – Discussion

- Regroup and discuss experience collectively
- Record participant observations and proposed recommendations

Step 6 – Report



***Elias Brookings Elementary
School Walk Audit
Springfield, MA***

July 1, 2013

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of
Community Health/Community Transformation Grant

Mass in Motion, an initiative of the MA Department of Public
Health

MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE

Old City Hall | 45 School Street | Boston MA 02108 | T: 617.367.9255 | F: 617.367.9285 | info@walkboston.org | www.walkboston.org

- Description of study area
- Overall findings and recommendations
- Implementation strategy
- Terminology and examples

6 steps to a walk audit

1. Choose an assessment area or walking route
2. Conduct a site visit prior to the official walk audit or workshop to identify positive and negative aspects of the area
3. Review the basics of the pedestrian environment
4. Conduct the walk audit
5. Discuss walk audit experience
6. Prepare summary report of findings



For more information:

Wendy Landman

wlandman@walkboston.org

www.walkboston.org