



 **walkBoston**[®]
2016 Annual Report

27th Annual Celebration

March 29th, 2017
Microsoft NERD Center
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MAKING MASSACHUSETTS MORE WALKABLE



walkBoston®

program

Welcome

Matt Lawlor | President

Year in Review

Wendy Landman | Executive Director

Project Highlights - “One Project, One Minute”

Bob Sloane - Dual Paths for the Esplanade

Stacey Beuttell - Police Pedestrian Safety Training Video

Adi Nochur - Age-Friendly Walking

Dorothea Hass - Chinatown Youth Advocacy

Brendan Kearney - Prototype Wayfinding Decals

Presentation of Golden Shoe Awards

Alison Pultinas

Sarah Bankert, Caitlin Marquis & Dillon Sussman

Michelle Wu

Keynote Speaker

Michelle Wu

Boston City Council President

WalkBoston Mission

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

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President Matt Lawlor



Welcome to WalkBoston's 27th Annual Celebration! We're honored to have you with us as we take stock of the last 12 months, celebrate great work by our partners and supporters, and look ahead to what we can do collaboratively in 2017 to promote safer walking and better walkability for everyone across the Commonwealth.

We recognize that 2016 was another year of strong growth in awareness of the value of walking and walkability. WalkBoston found itself working and advocating for better walking conditions in places as different and far-flung as Allston, Belchertown, Boston, Fall River, Goshen, Holyoke, New Bedford, Somerville, Springfield, and Watertown. This is only a partial list – we hope you get the picture that WalkBoston is our well-established brand, but we work in many parts of Massachusetts. Each new community requires WalkBoston to engage in new conversations and find new ways to promote walking and walkability with new partners in new contexts.

Another major focus of our work in 2016 was in continuing to push forward on Vision Zero by helping Boston with implementing its first year action items, and starting to work with Cambridge as they roll out their own Vision Zero action plan for 2017. The most significant achievement at the state level in 2016 was the adoption of a local 25 mph default speed limit opt-in as part of the Municipal Modernization Act. Both Boston and Cambridge have already taken advantage of this new local option and we look forward to many more municipalities following suit.

This year's Golden Shoe winners represent our work on walkability both in Boston's urban environments and in Western Massachusetts' rural communities. We have again identified a local Boston champion for walking in Alison Pultinas, a persistent, tireless citizen advocate in Mission Hill and Roxbury. We will also bestow Golden Shoes on Sarah Bankert, Caitlin Marquis, and Dillon Sussman in recognition of their work on behalf of rural residents trying to improve walking conditions in the western part of the state. And, finally, we will give a Golden Shoe to,

and hear from, Michelle Wu, an at-large Boston City Councilor and the current president of the City Council. Since her election in 2013, Michelle has emerged as the foremost proponent on the Council of policies, programming, funding, and action that make the City's streets safer for everyone. It is fair to say that the Walsh Administration could not ask for a more capable and dedicated partner in the fight for Vision Zero and other key active mobility issues than Michelle.

Looking ahead, we can see more advocacy will be needed to give Boston's key agencies, Transportation and Public Works, the increased funding and staff needed to make it possible for Vision Zero to reach more of the City more quickly. We are also eager to continue working across the Commonwealth to promote safer walking and better walkability wherever we find willing partners and supporters. As of March 2017, WalkBoston has worked in 113 Massachusetts cities and towns.

In closing, on behalf of all of my fellow members of the WalkBoston Board of Directors, I would once again like to thank all of our partners, funders, and supporters for their generous contributions, and our talented and dedicated staff led by Wendy Landman, our executive director, for their hard work and success all across the Commonwealth. Once again, welcome and thanks for your support!

Matt Lawlor | Board President | mlawlor@rc.com



WalkBoston has worked in 113 communities across the Commonwealth

Speaker Michelle Wu Boston City Council President



Michelle Wu has been a voice for accessibility, transparency, and community engagement in City leadership. First elected to the Boston City Council in November 2013 at the age of 28, Wu is the first Asian-American woman to serve on the Council. In January 2014, she was elected President of the City Council by her colleagues in a unanimous vote, becoming the first woman of color to serve as Council President.

Wu is a strong advocate for sustainable transportation, and she understands the needs of pedestrians and cyclists to travel safely and stress-free in the City. She led a series of City Council policy briefings focused on active transportation and resilient infrastructure planning, which brought together experts to discuss transportation policies. In addition to her work on transportation, Councilor Wu was the lead sponsor of Boston's Paid Parental Leave ordinance and Healthcare Equity ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity — both of which passed unanimously through the Council and were signed into law by Mayor Martin J. Walsh. She also authored Boston's Communications Access ordinance, which guarantees translation, interpretation and assistive technology for access to city services regardless of English language proficiency or communications disability.

In 2016, Councilor Wu was honored as one of Ten Outstanding Young Leaders by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and as part of Marie Claire magazine's New Guard: The 50 Most Influential Women in America.

Michelle Wu graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She is fluent in Mandarin and Spanish, and lives in Roslindale with her husband Conor and her two year-old son Blaise.

A proud partner of
WalkBoston
in the movement to build
age-friendly communities.



Golden Shoe Awards

WalkBoston presents awards annually to those exemplifying our mission. This year's recipients are:

Alison Pultinas | Persistent, effective Mission Hill/Roxbury citizen activist

Alison Pultinas is a leading Mission Hill activist and a key member of the Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard. Alison has been a guiding hand for the design of the Melnea Cass roadway as it has evolved from a roadway widening project to a Complete Street. Throughout the five-year advocacy effort, Alison has been persistent and effective, providing key institutional memory, recalling comment letters sent and informal decisions reached.

Alison is a strong advocate for development that is not dependent upon automobiles. She is a key ally of WalkBoston and consistently encourages WalkBoston to attend meetings and to respond to projects, like the proposed Tremont Crossing mixed-use development. She keeps watch over several of the outdoor stairways which connect walking routes on the hilly landscape of Mission Hill, cleaning and shoveling when needed. Alison is happy to report that the reconstruction of the Hayden Street Stairs, a City of Boston Public Works project, is upcoming. She also writes for the monthly community newspaper, *The Fenway News*, with a focus on development and historic preservation issues.

Sarah Bankert, Healthy Hampshire | Rural walking advocate in Western Massachusetts

Sarah Bankert conceived of the Route 202 – Common to Courthouse Corridor Study in Belchertown, which brought together municipal staff, Belchertown seniors, and economic development entities to work toward a shared goal of a safer, higher quality walking experience along Route 202. Sarah and her team's efforts attracted the attention of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Design & Resiliency Team (DART) who conducted a multi-day workshop which resulted in a "Three Villages & A Farm: Belchertown Beyond" case study report. She is also leading efforts to improve health and walkability in 14 towns in Hampshire County as part of the MDPH 1422 grant.

Caitlin Marquis, Healthy Hampshire | Rural walking advocate in Western Massachusetts

Caitlin Marquis has been a committed voice for incorporating physical activity – particularly walking – into town-wide planning efforts in Williamsburg. She contributed to the formation of the Facilities Master Plan Committee, plays an advisory role with seniors at the Williamsburg Council on Aging, and promotes healthy food choices at the local town center market. Her efforts demonstrate how walkability permeates so many aspects of the daily lives of Williamsburg residents. Caitlin also works to improve health and walkability in 14 towns in Hampshire County as part of the MDPH 1422 grant.

Dillon Sussman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission | Rural walking advocate in Western Massachusetts

Dillon Sussman, a land use planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), has also brought walkability to the rural towns of Hampshire County. Dillon conducted a Health Aging and Community Design regulatory review in Williamsburg and directed the town’s Facilities Master Planning efforts. He also authored the adaptation of PVPC’s Healthy Community Design Tool-Kit to include age-friendly design elements that are applicable across the Commonwealth.

Michelle Wu, Boston City Council President

Boston City Council President Michelle Wu has elevated the conversation about walking (and bicycling and transit) at the City Council, in City Hall, and among many Bostonians. Her proactive efforts to reach out to WalkBoston and many of our fellow activists about the importance of making Boston safer for people walking in the City has helped keep active transportation efforts alive in Boston. Partnership with Councilor Wu is particularly powerful as we work with many City departments, grassroots organizations and residents to implement Vision Zero.



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The Plymouth Rock Foundation proudly supports **WalkBoston** in its mission to make walking safer and easier in Massachusetts to encourage better public health, a cleaner environment, and safe, vibrant communities throughout the Commonwealth.



Plymouth Rock
Foundation

Executive Director Wendy Landman

Who wants to walk – everyone!
Where do they want to walk – everywhere!



From Williamsburg to Fall River, Manchester-by-the-Sea to Mattapan, Charlestown to Fitchburg . . . to name just a few. Whether in the heart of downtown, on leafy suburban streets, in city neighborhoods or small rural communities, people want to walk safely and easily.

Sometimes what is needed is a new crosswalk with the safety measures to make it work. Sometimes local advocates need help honing their message to talk with their neighbors or town councilors. Sometimes seniors need help getting shade trees planted and benches installed. And sometimes WalkBoston staff needs to provide deep technical expertise to help find solutions to difficult problems and sort out compromises among all modes of travel.

WalkBoston is fortunate to have the flexibility and capacity to talk shop with engineers and police officers, to run training sessions for teens so that the teens can then talk shop with local officials, and to communicate with long-time supporters and to brand new partners via print, broadcast and social media. We are particularly grateful to the Barr Foundation for their broad and adaptable support for a wide range of our advocacy.


2016 Recap

- Celebrated the implementation of MassDOT’s Complete Streets Funding Program with the first round of grants announced and 26 municipalities now approved for funding.
- Advocated for successful adoption of statewide legislation allowing municipalities to opt-in for lower prevailing speed limits (25 mph) on local roads and slow speed zones (20 mph). We are already seeing municipalities adopting lower speeds and installing new signs.
- Worked to get Vision Zero underway in Boston and adopted by Cambridge.

- Co-founded an active and collaborative Vision Zero Coalition.
- Helped craft a set of policy recommendations about new mobility options including the arrival of automated vehicles (AVs) – a completely new topic for us – as part of the T4MA team.
- Helped Chinatown teens successfully advocate for improved pedestrian crossings – with much more work still to come!
- Installed pedestrian wayfinding signs in five communities across the state.
- Helped lead a coalition of advocates and community organizations to press for a better design for the I-90 interchange in Allston.
- Initiated an Age-Friendly Walking project in Mattapan, East Boston and the South End in close collaboration with Boston’s Commission on Affairs of the Elderly, and also participated more broadly in the Age-Friendly Boston initiative.
- Held Ped 101 trainings in our office twice a month for 180 new advocates.
- Led a Rural Walking webinar for 600+ participants with America Walks.
- Worked with our Board of Directors to re-organize the Board committees into a more effective and efficient structure.
- Continued to build our ability to support and grow WalkBoston through improved office systems and staff capacities.

Throughout 2016, we were out in the field, on the street, holding advocacy-focused walks, walk audits and pedestrian safety trainings with local residents, municipal staff, elected officials, state agency staff and other advocates across Massachusetts. Truly, everybody wants to walk!!

Wendy Landman



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2016 Highlights

Video: WALK . . . Don't WALK

Pedestrian Safety Awareness for Massachusetts Law Enforcement Training

In partnership with MassDOT and the Boston Police Academy, WalkBoston produced a video for law enforcement that summarized Massachusetts' traffic laws related to pedestrian safety. The video not only met the goal of informing police officers of relevant statutes and citations, but also:

- Demonstrated the complexities of laws that apply to pedestrians and other road users – right of way issues; protecting the most vulnerable users; significance of enforcing traffic speed and parking rules for pedestrian safety
- Elevated the status of enforcing laws that protect pedestrians
- Provided information on the impact of road design on pedestrian safety and informed police officers on how they can improve the built environment by reporting deficient pedestrian infrastructure to other municipal departments



Filming during a walk audit in Waltham, Massachusetts

The video is now part of the police continuing education program statewide and has also been used by many outside of law enforcement (e.g., public health, municipal staff, regional planning agencies) as a tool to promote pedestrian safety issues.

The video can be found on WalkBoston's website: <http://walkboston.org/walk%E2%80%A6don%E2%80%99t-walk-pedestrian-safety-awareness-ma-law-enforcement>

Age-Friendly Walking in Boston

WalkBoston, in partnership with the City of Boston's Elderly Commission, has embarked on an ambitious age-friendly walking project to promote safe and comfortable walking for Boston seniors. This three-year effort falls under the City's broader Age-Friendly Boston initiative, which in turn is part of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities network. With funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging, and support from numerous city agencies, community groups and local residents, age-friendly walking seeks to create near-term built environment improvements in an initial set of pilot neighborhoods, while also developing guidelines for a long-term citywide approach to senior walking.



Mattapan age-friendly walk audit

In the project's first year (2016), WalkBoston and the Elderly Commission identified East Boston (Meridian and Border Street corridors), the South End (Massachusetts Avenue corridor) and Mattapan Square as the pilot neighborhoods and held outreach efforts to engage with those communities. WalkBoston organized kickoff meetings and walk audits in all three neighborhoods, which generated significant excitement from local seniors and stakeholders and helped us identify many location-specific age-friendly walking issues to address. Our outreach and field work also surfaced a number of common themes across all three neighborhoods, ranging from a need for traffic calming and safer pedestrian crossings to a desire for benches and shade to create a more comfortable walking environment for seniors. These themes in turn have informed a set of citywide age-friendly walking action items and strategies.

In 2017, WalkBoston will continue to work closely with City agencies and community groups to ensure that neighborhood-specific improvements are implemented, and that inter agency processes and policies for citywide action items are clarified and codified. Age-friendly walking is guided by the fundamental principle that safe and comfortable walking for seniors means safe and comfortable walking for everyone. When the needs of vulnerable populations are addressed, everyone benefits, and this approach to equity continues to guide WalkBoston's work.

National Walking Movement

WalkBoston continues to be actively engaged with advocates and organizations across the country to build the strength and technical expertise of the walking movement. Among our key 2016 activities:

- Collaborated with the regional office of the US Department of Health and Human Services as they worked to promote the US Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking and Walkable Communities
- WalkBoston continued our engagement with the national Every Body Walks Collaborative, with a focus on communications issues
- Wendy Landman continues to be an America Walks Board Member and was a mentor for the America Walks Walking College that trains advocates from across the country

Wayfinding Sign Programs

In 2016, WalkBoston worked with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and local community partners to design and install systems of wayfinding signs in five municipalities: Springfield, Fall River, Northampton, Belchertown, and Montague in the village of Turners Falls. By providing people with clear information about walking routes and walking times to key destinations in their communities, the wayfinding signs are designed to encourage more walking for health and transportation purposes.

WalkBoston worked with municipal staff in each location to determine networks of walking routes and destinations, as well as sign designs and locations along these routes. Over 300 signs were installed across the 5 communities, with wayfinding objectives ranging from connecting downtown and neighborhood locations to a newly opened rail trail in Fall River, to creating a downtown walking loop in Springfield. Initial evaluations of the wayfinding efforts have been largely positive, finding that the signs are liked by local residents and have the potential to get people to walk more often.



City staff hang wayfinding signs in downtown Springfield

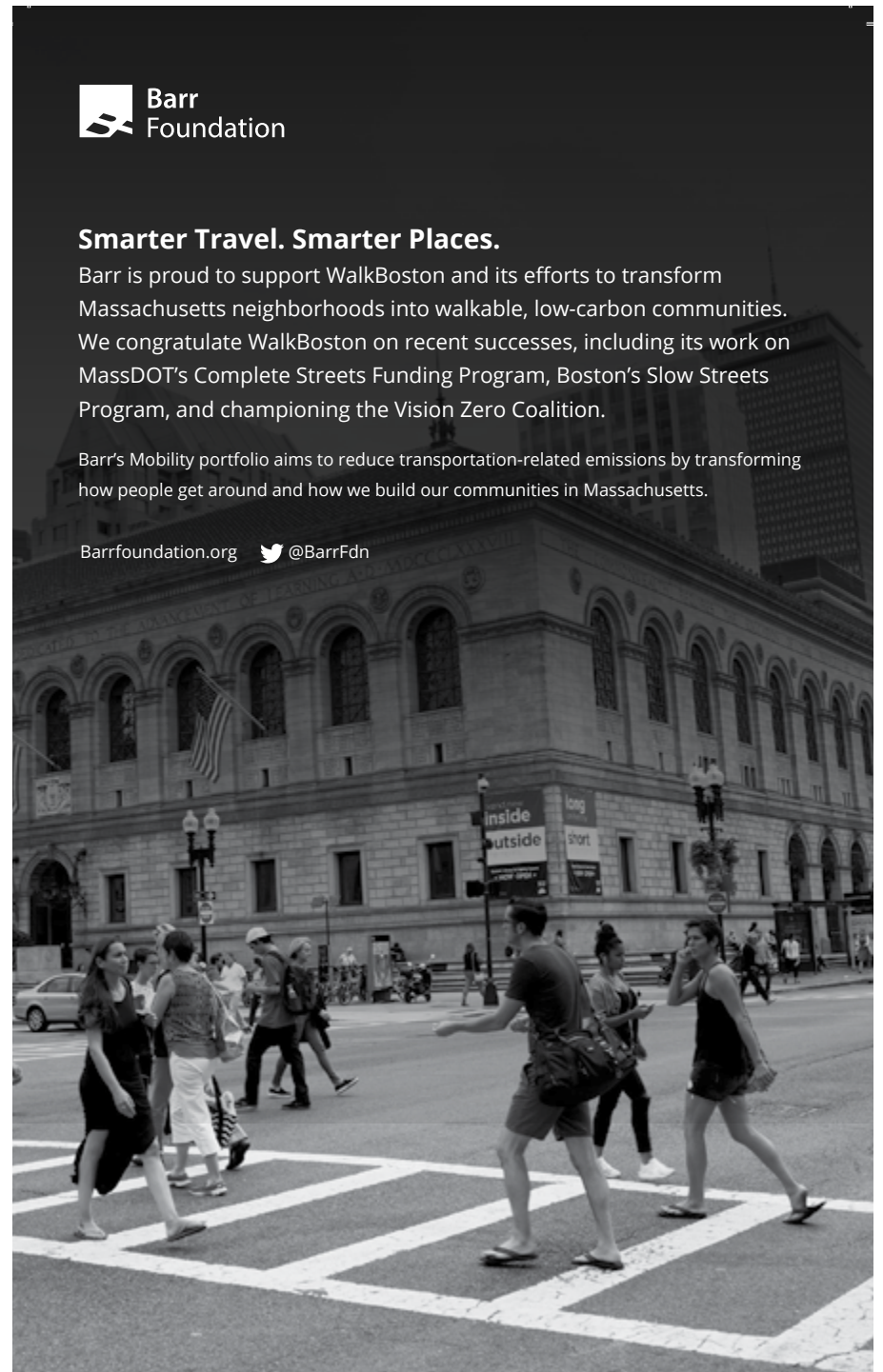


Smarter Travel. Smarter Places.

Barr is proud to support WalkBoston and its efforts to transform Massachusetts neighborhoods into walkable, low-carbon communities. We congratulate WalkBoston on recent successes, including its work on MassDOT's Complete Streets Funding Program, Boston's Slow Streets Program, and championing the Vision Zero Coalition.

Barr's Mobility portfolio aims to reduce transportation-related emissions by transforming how people get around and how we build our communities in Massachusetts.

Barrfoundation.org  [@BarrFdn](https://twitter.com/BarrFdn)



Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Close to 20 cities in the United States have committed to Vision Zero, including 2 in Massachusetts: Boston and Cambridge.

The City of Boston has committed to focus resources on proven strategies to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes in the City by 2030. WalkBoston continues to work as an active member of Boston's Vision Zero Task Force and a co-founder of the MA Vision Zero Coalition. Here is a brief look back at Vision Zero Boston's first full year (2016).

WalkBoston worked diligently to fully engage Boston's police, public health, public works and transportation departments in Vision Zero efforts, and led efforts to cement Mayor Walsh's commitment. The MA Vision Zero Coalition has been critical to maintaining the high level of community engagement needed to secure City Council and City staff support. We co-led a Vision Zero rally at City Hall with 250+ attendees, and soon thereafter met with Mayor Walsh and his leadership team to emphasize the critical nature of this effort, and the need for increased City personnel and capital resources.

WalkBoston participated in, tracked and recorded the Task Force's rapid response site visits at fatal (or critical injury) pedestrian crashes in 2016, and then posted the results and any City follow up. The site reports were included in a progress report released in December by the MA Vision Zero Coalition on the City's VZ efforts (visionzerocoalition.org).

We will be vigilant in continuing to press for Vision Zero safety efforts in 2017 and beyond. In 2016, injuries to people walking in Boston increased by more than 14% compared to 2015 (2016 – 903 injuries. 2015 – 789 injuries). Pedestrian fatalities accounted for 15 out of 22 total traffic deaths in Boston, a jump from the 9 pedestrian fatalities in 2015.

“As Mayor, I see the real people behind these statistics; I share the grief, pain, and sense of loss that every crash report represents.” – Mayor Walsh, Vision Zero Boston website



WalkBoston staff participate in the City of Boston's Rapid Response site visits at fatal or critical injury crashes.

Cambridge announced it would pursue Vision Zero at our March 2016 Annual Celebration, where Leah Shahum, Founder and Executive Director of the national VZ Network, was our keynote speaker. We have just begun to work with Cambridge on their plan and WalkBoston will be a member of their task force.

Traffic crashes have risen in Massachusetts and nationwide, so the urgency of this work has never been greater. We recently began to research the potential for both statewide and Vision Zero activities in smaller cities and towns with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) funded by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health.

We are grateful to Partners HealthCare and the Plymouth Rock Foundation for their targeted support of our 2016 Vision Zero efforts.

Working with Youth in Chinatown and Codman Square

The Miller Foundation has been a valued partner of WalkBoston for the past 10 years. With the Foundation's generous support, WalkBoston has provided technical assistance and training to residents and teens of Boston's low-income neighborhoods. Because the Foundation underwrites a broad community engagement program, WalkBoston can quickly respond to neighborhood needs.

In the Summer 2017, WalkBoston provided a Safe Streets Training Program in Chinatown. Through their summer program, AVOYCE, the youth selected Kneeland Street, the main street of Chinatown and the site of several serious pedestrian crashes as the training venue. As shown in the photograph below, the teens assessed the walking environment, and tracked vehicle speeds, driver/pedestrian behaviors, intersection layout and traffic signal timing.

The teens presented their assessment to Boston Transportation Department (BTD), and BTD staff commented on the youth's excellent presentation. Subsequently, BTD provided more WALK time in the pedestrian signal phase and re-painted "Don't Block the Box" pavement markings at intersections.



AVOYCE youth in Chinatown assess Kneeland Street to improve walking conditions

WalkBoston also continued working with residents of the Talbot-Norfolk-Triangle (TNT) and Codman Square in Dorchester to make their streets safer for walkers. In TNT, the City established a Slow Streets Program to lower traffic speeds through pavement markings, raised crosswalks and removal of parking near intersections to increase walker visibility. In Codman Square, painted medians, flex posts and revised signal timing have greatly increased pedestrian safety.



Results of WalkBoston's work in Codman Square (before and after improvements)

Thank you to the Microsoft New England Research and Development (NERD) Center for donating the space to hold our annual meeting, and to Whole Foods for their generous donation of food for the celebration.

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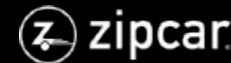


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We celebrate

WALKBOSTON
and its mission of making walking safer and easier in Massachusetts to encourage better health, a cleaner environment and vibrant communities.



Setting the Pace

Congratulations and thank you to Walk Boston's 2017 Golden Shoe Award recipients Michelle Wu, Alison Pultinas, Sarah Bankert, Caitlin Marquis, and Dillon Sussman.



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Thanks!

We thank WalkBoston for promoting
our city's walkability to residents and
visitors alike.

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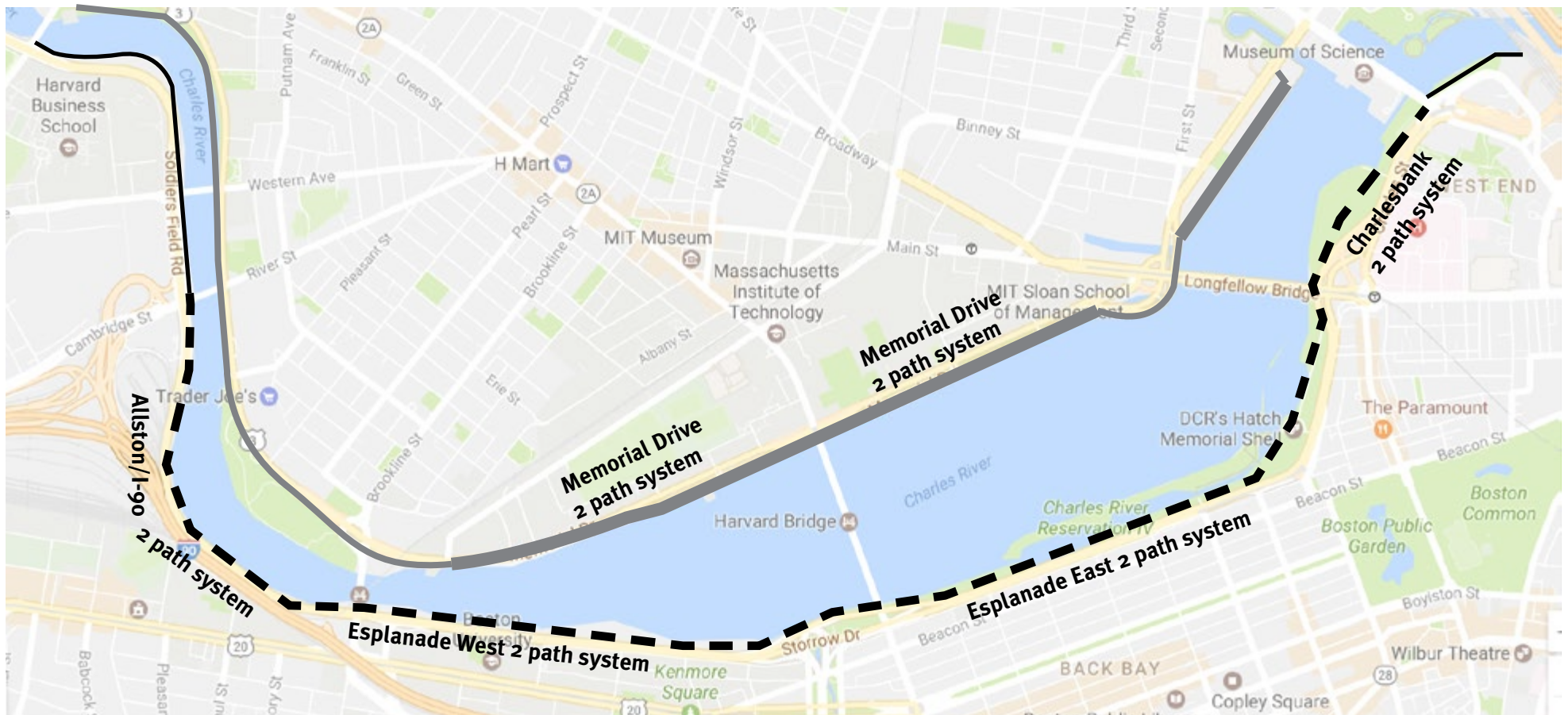
WalkBoston plans for safer walking, running and biking in the Charles River Basin

Charles River paths are among the most heavily used park facilities in the region. Improving the interactions between walkers, runners and cyclists is needed because of the crowded paths. WalkBoston is actively pursuing a two-path system throughout the lower Charles River Basin to increase safety and reduce conflicts for walkers, runners and cyclists.

The state's Department of Recreation and Conservation (DCR) has led the way toward a two-path network. Along 1.5 miles of Memorial Drive, DCR built a 10-foot wide bike path and a second 10-foot wide pedestrian path of stabilized aggregate. Runners prefer the softer surface now

found along the seawall and railing that line the Charles. Closer to the Science Museum, two paths were paved for cyclists and walkers, and runners have carved their own path in the lawn. More information on this program can be found here: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/planning-and-resource-protection/projects/memorial-drive-demonstration-project-phase-ii.html>.

On the Boston side of the river, surveys of walkers on the Esplanade showed that many older people and parents with children are nervous about the possibility of a crash with a bike on a narrow path. The Esplanade Association has engaged with WalkBoston to explore potential measures to reduce conflicts and increase the comfort of all park users. The study will explore ways to separate flows of pedestrians, runners and



Existing and proposed Charles River path system

cyclists. This system is proposed to extend from the Science Museum to the BU Bridge.

Beyond the BU Bridge and extending toward Harvard Square, the planning along the Charles River continues. The I-90 Interchange Replacement project in Allston extends for a mile along the Charles. As currently planned, roughly half of the distance between the BU Bridge and Harvard Square will be enhanced with a new riverside park. Soldiers Field Road will be moved back from the river to provide land for the park. Given the width of space between the proposed new roadway and the river, the park can accommodate two paths on the site.

For the other half of the distance, the I-90 project is directly adjacent to the river which is the narrowest portion of the highway corridor. MassDOT is examining three potential options for rebuilding this area known as “The Throat.” One option retains the existing viaduct for I-90, while the other two options propose placing the highway at the same elevation as the edge of the river.

None of the options in The Throat provide for a more expansive park along the riverbank. Instead, each option examines the possibility of slightly widening the existing Paul Dudley White path, which is a mere 8 feet wide. WalkBoston, working with Allston Community and other advocacy organizations, has proposed a study of water and recreation needs alongside the highway. WalkBoston is once again advocating for two paths – one for cyclists and one for walkers and runners.



Recent construction of the dual pedestrian and bicycle paths along Memorial Drive

Public and Private Project Review

In 2016, WalkBoston submitted comment letters on a wide range of transportation and development projects including:

- I-90 Interchange Project (Allston) – multiple comments
- JP/Rox Master Plan (Jamaica Plain/Roxbury)
- Morrissey Boulevard Redesign (Dorchester)
- 872 Morton Street RFP (Mattapan)
- 425 Washington Street Development (Brighton)
- Worcester Main Street Redesign (Worcester)
- Walter Street/Bussey Street Intersection Redesign (Roslindale)
- South Station Transportation Plan and Development Proposal (Downtown)
- Arborway Safety Improvements (Jamaica Plain)
- Old Northern Avenue Bridge (North Station/Charlestown)
- Back Bay Gateway Project (Back Bay)
- Green Line Extension (Somerville/Cambridge/Medford)
- Melnea Cass Boulevard (Roxbury)
- Comm Ave/BU Bridge Intersection re-design (Kenmore Square)
- Lynn Complete Streets Support Letter (Lynn)
- South Boston Transportation Center (South Boston)
- 33 Temple Street Development (Beacon Hill)
- General Electric Headquarters (Fort Point Channel)

WalkBoston in the News

WalkBoston has a greater presence in the news than ever before, thanks to our communications team and staff writers. We have established relationships with the Boston Globe, WBUR, and TV news stations like WCVB and 7 News: Hank Investigates. Brendan and Wendy, our chief spokespeople, provide informed statements to the press regularly, advocating for safe walking and high quality pedestrian environments throughout the Commonwealth.

Wicked Local Melrose | Feb 13, 2017 | By Jeannette Hinkle
Melrose pursues grant to increase transportation connectivity

Somerville Times | Feb 2, 2017 | By Jennifer Mazzola
Letter to the Editor

The past year has been a tumultuous one filled with surgeries, physical therapy, scars, and a lot of tears as I recovered from what happened to me that night. I have joined organizations such as WalkBoston and Livable Streets, that fight for safety on our roadways, for all of us who use them.

WCVB News (TV) | Jan 26, 2017 | By Rhondella Richardson
Steps being taken in Boston to curb crashes involving pedestrians
In recent months, Boston has seen a spike in car crashes involving pedestrians. [video]

Boston Herald | Jan 25, 2017 | By Brian Dowling and Meghan Ottolini
Striking Level of Carnage
"It's a small staff in the planning department with these large tasks ahead of them and these wonderful, audacious goals that are bold and would make the city a better, livable place, but I don't think they have the staff or the funding to implement these things," said Brendan Kearney, of WalkBoston, a member of the city's Vision Zero task force.

BostInno | Jan 18, 2017 | By Brendan Kearney
Pricier Boston Parking Meters Should Be Just the Beginning
Kudos to Mayor Walsh. The city is on the right track with a pilot project like this one. Boston is home to an innovation economy. We should be pushing for more pilot projects to change how our streets and curbside spaces are allocated.

Boston Globe | Jan 6, 2017 | By Andrew Ryan
New South Boston zoning could mean more parking and slow down development

"They should be reducing these parking minimums," said Brendan Kearney, communications manager for the pedestrian advocacy group WalkBoston. "The city of Buffalo just removed parking requirements entirely. You don't think of Buffalo as a paragon of forward urban thinking, but if Buffalo can do it, why not Boston?"

The Bulletin Newspapers | Dec 14, 2016 | By Jeff Sullivan
Pedestrian safety hot topic at transportation policy briefing
Wendy Landman, executive director for WalkBoston, said the most critical factor in pedestrian collisions is that of speed. "It's something we're seeing actually around the world. City planners and transportation planners are thinking very hard about transportation speed because that's what is the most basic element of a safe walking environment."

7 News: Hank Investigates | Nov 16, 2016 | By Hank Phillippi Ryan
Crosswalk Confusion and woe to those who try to obey the law...
Brendan Kearney: "Let's see how long it is before people start honking their horns for the right turn... Ah, there we go." Driver peer pressure forces them to break it. [video]

SouthCoast Today | Nov 6, 2016 | By Paige L. Jones
Community members seek to make New Bedford South End more walkable
The New Bedford walk was led by WalkBoston, along with the United Way of Greater New Bedford.

WBUR | Oct 3, 2016 | By Simón Rios
Boston Launches App-Based Competition To Encourage Safe Driving
Brendan Kearney of the pro-pedestrian group WalkBoston says the app won't be a silver bullet, but it's another tool to use in the Vision Zero program. "If this helps get the word out about Vision Zero and reducing fatalities and serious crashes by being more courteous about how you get around the roads, it's great," Kearney said.

Salem Patch | Sep 30, 2016 | By Joe Lipovich

Salem to Hold Group Walks for Elementary Students

WalkBoston, a nonprofit pedestrian advocacy organization that has conducted walking audits of the downtown and South Salem neighborhoods, offers a walking map of the City.

Boston Globe | Sep 30, 2016 | By Meghan E. Irons

Bike, pedestrian advocates to press Mayor on road safety

Kearney said the city needs to devote more funding for improvements and hire additional staff to make them happen. "They have a great staff right now," he said. "But they don't have the capacity to tackle all of the needs."

Beacon Hill Times | Sep 29, 2016 | By Beacon Hill Times Report

MassDOT installs two pedestrian hybrid beacons to improve pedestrian safety

Brendan Kearney of WalkBoston added, "WalkBoston is pleased that walking and running safety measures have now been added in the project area, instead of waiting until the end of the construction process."

Dorchester Reporter | Sep 22, 2016 | By Brianne Garrett

'Vision Zero' to outline traffic calming plans for Talbot-Norfolk

Activists have previously worked with local non-profits such as WalkBoston and have even developed their own report based on "a walking audit of the neighborhood," says Seskin.

WBUR CommonHealth | Magic Pill, Episode #17 | Sep 16, 2016 | By Carey Goldberg

Location, Location, Location: It Can Impact Your Exercise Habits Too.

This is a tough one: What do you do if where you live and work gets in the way of moving more? No gym nearby, streets that don't feel safe, bad air. It makes getting out there all that much harder. But from biking to walking groups to special programs, there are ways around those barriers.

Boston Globe | Sep 2, 2016 | Wendy Landman, Stacy Thompson, Becca Wolfson

Letter to the Editor: Leaders must make safer streets a priority

We desperately need the state, cities, and towns to invest in infrastructure. The status quo is not working. Leaders must prioritize safer options for people to walk, bike, and take transit.

Boston Magazine | Aug 18, 2016 | By Spencer Buell

Car Strikes Pedestrians on Freedom Trail in Downtown Crossing

"It's scary. I'm still a little stunned that something like this can happen," Kearney says. "It happened at, like, noon. This place is slammed with people on a normal day and this is August, midweek. This is the height of tourist season on the Freedom Trail."

Metro Boston | Aug 2, 2016 | By Chris Caesar

Jaywalkers have little to fear in Boston — at least from the law

Kearney said lawmakers have more effective means at their disposal to cut back on pedestrian deaths, rather than punishing pedestrians: increase fines and enforcement for speeding, paint more crosswalks in the city, and employ shorter times for light signal changes to cut down on the time pedestrians wait at the curb.

Wicked Local Weymouth | Jul 22, 2016 | By Ed Baker

Weymouth planners look to improve Columbian Square's village appeal

Columbian Square could be a marquee attraction in South Weymouth for visitors to dine at a sidewalk café or shop at an open air market if traffic can be slowed down at the busy intersection, says Wendy Landman, executive director of WalkBoston, a non-profit pedestrian advocacy organization.

Boston Globe | Jul 10, 2016 | By Jan Ransom, Trisha Thadani, Nicole Fleming

After 2nd duck boat crash this year, a renewed call for change

Brendan Kearney, a spokesman for Walk Boston, a nonprofit that advocates for pedestrian safety, said duck boats are not suitable to urban environments where people are walking, biking, and driving. "I've never sat in the driver's seat of a duck boat, but I'm sure they are very difficult to drive," he said. "They are vehicles that were meant to storm the beaches of Normandy. They were designed to do a very different thing than they are used for today."

Boston Globe | May 18, 2016 | By Steve Annear

Would closing Newbury Street to cars be a good idea?

"WalkBoston is supportive of open streets programs to allow people to be more active and engaged in their community, while also giving residents and visitors the opportunity to safely use one of the city's largest assets, our streets, in a way they normally are unable to," he said. "The City of Boston has mentioned that they're considering pilot locations; we'd love to see this done!"

CBS Boston | May 18, 2016 | By Louisa Moller

Boston Considering Pedestrian Only Streets During Summer

Is Boston making strides towards walking-only streets? Watch this interview with WalkBoston board president Matt Lawlor from CBS Boston. [video]

Fox 25 Boston | Mar 21, 2016 | By Kerry Kavanaugh

Driver crashes Bentley while drag racing in Back Bay

On Monday, FOX25 met with a number of safety advocacy groups that say the latest accident highlights the need to slow traffic down. [video]

Scout Somerville | Mar 17, 2016 | By Emily Cassel

Somerville Road Runners Make A Plea For The Community Path Extension

Ultimately, Kearney says that extending the Community Path and making the City safer for runners and pedestrians actually makes this a better, safer place for all of Somerville's residents — whether or not they've ever strapped on a pair of running shoes.



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Development Committee

2016 was a successful year for WalkBoston’s fundraising team. By comparison with 2015, we grew our donations from corporate supporters by about 15% and from individual donors by nearly 30%. We were especially excited to add many more new individual donors than in previous years—ranging from small introductory donations, to a few people who gave at more significant levels.

Our success was the result of the hard work from our wonderful Development Committee, which grew this year when we welcomed long-time board member Jerry Pucillo. The team worked to expand its reach through small fundraising house parties in the Back Bay, Roslindale, and Salem, through mailings that captured audiences with impactful stories, details of our work, and highlights of our achievements, and with an increased social media presence that grew, reaching more communities across Massachusetts.

An important organizational upgrade in 2016 was the complete re-vamping of our Salesforce database system, which has given us much stronger capabilities for both advocacy and development activities. Development Director Laura O’Rourke led the upgrade with assistance from an amazing volunteer team from the John Hancock Corporation who we connected with via Common Impact. We are so grateful for the support from the John Hancock team, including the continued volunteer assistance from Saumitra Das, which extended well beyond the end of our formal volunteer engagement.

We are thankful for the support of the entire WalkBoston Board, our many individual and corporate donors, and the foundations and public agencies who provide funding for our programs, advocacy, and projects.

If you have ideas and energy, we would love to add you to our development efforts! Please feel free to reach out directly to Laura O’Rourke at lorourke@walkboston.org.

Development Committee Members:

Emma Rothfeld Yashar, Chair
Nina Cohen
Betsy Johnson

Wendy Landman
Laura O’Rourke
Jerry Pucillo

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is an active group devoted to creating effective messaging and materials that magnify the outreach and advocacy efforts of WalkBoston. Our focus this year was supporting the strategic objective of increasing awareness of WalkBoston and all that we do. This included supporting fundraising efforts and expanding our advocacy efforts statewide.

WalkBoston is the “go-to” resource for pedestrian issues as they relate to traffic and transportation as well as real estate development. In both social and traditional medias, WalkBoston has been mentioned many times, reinforcing the organization’s efforts across its varied constituencies. See the “WalkBoston in the News” section of this report for more details.

Newsletter editor Hillary Borcharding’s editions focused on engaging topics: “Vision Zero”, an action plan to make streets safe for everyone and “Wayshowing” featuring our work statewide encouraging active

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DLA Piper is proud to support WalkBoston, and we congratulate the Golden Show Award winners.

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transportation and wayfinding signage to get people walking. The newsletter also reinforces the advocacy efforts, programs and upcoming events that WalkBoston hosts.

The committee also assists the Development Committee by creating effective materials, including postcards and letters, to help build fundraising efforts and increase financial support for WalkBoston.

We look forward to continuing our efforts and welcome your ideas or participation with our committee. If you're interested in writing articles or have ideas for future topics for the quarterly newsletter, please let us know.

Communication Committee Members:



Nina Garfinkle, Communications Chair
Hillary Borcharding, Newsletter Editor
Joyce DiBona
Don Eunson
Shay Karime
Brendan Kearney
Ken Krause



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Program and Events Committee

The Program and Events Committee meets monthly to brainstorm and plan events that have a connection to ongoing projects or interesting aspects of walking and walkability in general. One of the goals is to grow engagement among WalkBoston supporters and with the wider community.

A recurring event we hosted throughout the year was Ped 101. These free, beginner pedestrian advocacy trainings were held twice a month in our office at Old City Hall, either during the lunch hour or after work. Our goal was to help build the constituency of people that are comfortable speaking up for walking in their own community. We have plans to continue these informal sessions over the coming months. Hope you can come to one! Look for upcoming dates at: ped101.eventbrite.com

WalkBoston co-hosted a Runner Safety panel in March along with the Somerville Police Department and the Somerville Road Runners. Later in the year, Somerville received national recognition as a “Runner Friendly Community” by the Road Runners Club of America.

In November, we led a morning walk starting from the Broadway MBTA station in South Boston. The route included a section of the Harborwalk by the future GE Headquarters site and highlighted gaps in the pedestrian network at Cypher Street that neighbors have been trying to shine a light on. Representatives of the Boston Transportation Department, A Better City, and the Convention Center all joined us for the walk and shared updates about changes that are underway. The walk ended in the Fort Point neighborhood at the Boston Tea Party museum for tea/coffee. Since the walk, Public Works has submitted plans for improvements to Summer Street, which include fixing the slanted sidewalks between Melcher Street and the Convention Center.

We're always open to discuss interesting ideas or groups to collaborate with on an event. If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch!

Program and Events Committee Members:

Linda Sharpe, Committee Chair
Marcie Benson
Jeanhee Chung

Ann Hershfang
Brendan Kearney
Bill Reyelt
Bob Sloane

Governance Committee

WalkBoston's Governance Committee has two primary roles: recruiting new Board members, and setting policies and oversight practices for the Board. Beginning its work in Summer 2016, the Committee has systematized Board terms and renewal appointments, developed a clear policy for succession planning for the Board president, and set up a protocol for Board member self assessment. The Committee recruited one new WalkBoston Board member and is continuing efforts to build a pipeline for new members. Looking ahead, the Committee will complete a Board Manual in 2017.

Governance Committee Members:

Amy Branger, Governance Chair
 Betsy Boveroux
 Wendy Landman
 Matt Lawlor
 Erik Lund
 Karen Cord Taylor



Vision Zero Rally at City Hall

Financial Report

Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenue

Grants- Release from Restrictions	220,333
Grants - Unrestricted	2,300
Contract Revenue	281,066
Fundraising and Membership	145,321
Other Income	1,884
In-kind revenue	8,500
Total Revenue	659,404

Expense

Payroll & Related Expenses	421,409
Direct Project Expense	121,337
Occupancy	31,920
Program Support & Administration	54,693
Fundraising and Membership	14,945
In-kind expense	8,500
Total Expense	652,804

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	6,600
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Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Grants and Contributions - Restricted	138,168
Grants and Contributions - Release from Restrictions	
<u>(234,751)</u>	

Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(96,583)
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Change in Total Net Assets	(89,983)
-----------------------------------	-----------------

During fiscal year 2016, one of WalkBoston's foundation supporters shifted us to a new grant cycle. As a result of this shift, 2016 shows a reduction in temporarily restricted net assets, and 2017 is expected to show an increase.

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Project and Program Support

America Walks | Walking College Mentoring

American College of Sports Medicine | Walk audit workshop

Barr Foundation | Support for project reviews, policy advocacy, national walking strategy, Transportation for Massachusetts efforts

Ciccolo Foundation | General operating support

City of Boston Office of Tourism, Sports & Entertainment | Walking map

City of Fall River | Wayfinding signs and support for walking safety efforts

City of Northampton | Wayfinding signs and support for walking safety efforts

City of Springfield | Support for wayfinding signs and for walking safety efforts

Esplanade Association | Investigation of improvements to walking-biking facilities in the park

Franklin Regional Council of Governments | Wayfinding signs

Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation | Technical assistance and capacity building with grassroots and community organizations

Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging | Support for Boston Age-Friendly Walking project

Massachusetts Department of Public Health | Technical assistance for Mass in Motion communities and wayfinding programs with five communities

Massachusetts Department of Transportation | Highway Safety Improvement Plan Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety and Awareness Program

Massachusetts Department of Transportation/MassRIDES | Second-grade pedestrian safety curriculum development and teacher training

Mazer Foundation | Vision Zero efforts

Metropolitan Area Planning Council | Vision Zero efforts

Partners HealthCare | Funding for Revere, Chelsea, Lynn and Salem Mass in Motion efforts and for Vision Zero efforts

Plymouth Rock Foundation | Vision Zero efforts

Solomon Foundation | General operating support

TransComm | Walking tours for employee health programs

Tufts HealthCare Foundation | Support for Boston Age-Friendly Walking project





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on the streets of our city and for promoting
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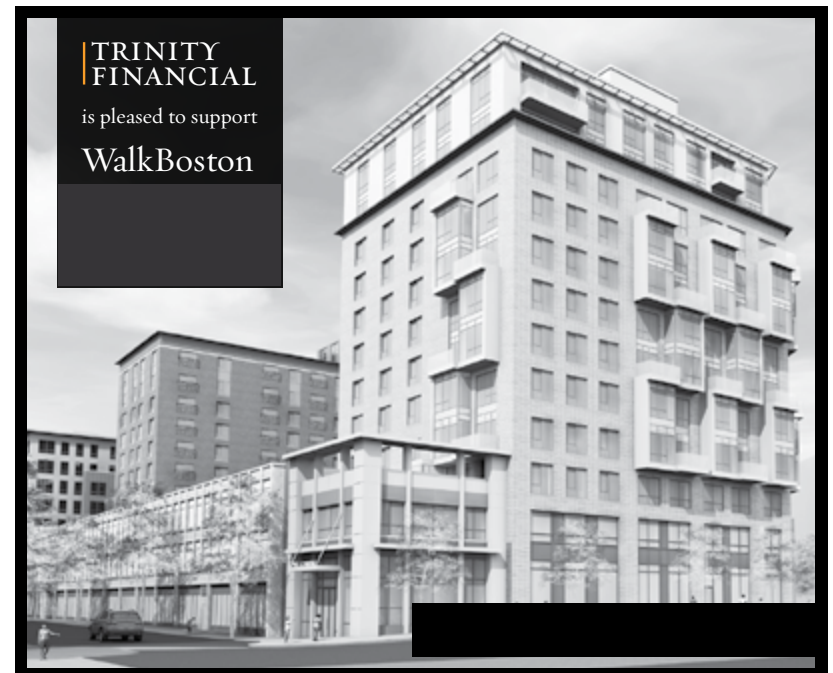
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Past Golden Shoe Winners

2016

Charlotte Fleetwood | City of Boston Vision Zero Champion
Paul Malkemes & David Queeley | Grassroots “Slow Zone” Pioneers
Maggie Sachs-Mahmood | Inspiring Student Advocates at Codman Academy

2015

Mayor Joseph Curtatone, City of Somerville, and community partners | For making Somerville a more walkable community
Tom DiPaolo & Bonnie Polin | MassDOT catalysts of change
Sarah Freeman | Jamaica Plain walking advocate

2014

Sarah Freeman | Jamaica Plain walking advocate
Mayor Gary Christenson, Sharon Santillo, Frank Stella | Malden pedestrian signs, walking activists, designers
Revere Walk to School Champions, City School Dept, Revere on the Move, Revere CARES | Safe routes to schools
Karin Valentine Goins | WalkBike Worcester co-founder

2013

City of Gloucester, Mayor Carolyn Kirk, Steve Winslow | Getting Gloucester walking
Madison Park Development Corp, Angela Kelly | Training Complete Streets advocates
The Barr Foundation, Mary Skelton Roberts | Innovative, nurturing environmental funder

2012

Dr. Regina Benjamin | US Surgeon General | Promoting walking nationally
Energize Everett, Kathleen O’Brien | Creatively getting Everett moving and eating well
Harvard Pilgrim Health Foundation, Karen Voci | Innovative funder and childhood obesity advocate
Vicki Danberg | Newton Alderman | Sidewalk snow clearing champion
Joyce DiBona | Long-time board member | Communications assistance

2011

Alan French | Bay Circuit Alliance 200-mile walking trail creator
Doug Johnson | Persistent and persuasive advocate
Brockton Public Schools, Jane Feroli | Schools, principals, kids, parents, success
Denise Provost | Somerville legislator and walking promoter

2010

Polly Flansburgh | Founder, Boston By Foot
Jeff Rosenblum | President and Co-Founder, LiveableStreets
Mary Jane Williams | Leader, innovator, and pro-walking advocate
Myron Miller | Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation | Support for walking programs

2009

Four Corners Main Streets, Shelly Goehring | Creating a vital/walkable business district
Liz Levin | Long-time board member | Leader, advocate, inspiration
Lea Susan Ojamaa | MA Dept. of Public Health | Healthy Communities leader
Jim Rooney | MA Convention Center Authority | Bringing walking to conventioners

2008

Paul Grogan | The Boston Foundation | Support for walking programs
Susan Bregman | WalkBoston volunteer webmaster
Nancy Caruso | North End and CA/T community activist
Patrick Healy | Nutritionist, walking advocate, and leader
Uphams Corner Health Center | Walking Prescriptions Program

2007

Joseph Curtatone | Mayor of Somerville
Bill Gasper | BU Medical Center
Paul Drew | Boston Medical Center
Rob Tuchmann | Artery Business Committee | Greenway design
Jorge Martinez | Project Right | Walking advocacy support
Shape Up Somerville | Walking Helps Healthy Communities
Ken Krause | Early staffer | Communications Committee

2006

Ken Kruckemeyer | Technical assistance & transportation Strategist
Chris Hart | Adaptive Environments | Integration of ADA standards in pathways
Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center | Walk leaders, participants
South Cove Community Health Center | Walking groups
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office | Support for walking analysis in projects

2005

Thomas M. Menino | Mayor of Boston | Walk to the Democratic National Convention | city staff support of walking
Vineet Gupta | Boston Transp Dept | Rose Kennedy Greenway guidelines
John DeBenedictis | Boston Transp Dept | Boston's Walk Light Policy
Ann McHugh | Boston Public Health Comm | STEPS | Walking advocacy

2004

Beth Larkin | HNTB Corporation | Sidewalk construction standards
William "Buzz" Constable | Leader, Town of Lincoln pathway program
City of Cambridge Health Department | Walking programs
Ann Hershfang | WalkBoston | Outgoing 15-year President

2003

Matthew Amorello | Mass Turnpike Auth Chairman | Big Dig sidewalks, paths | Two Zakim Bridge walks
Karilyn Crockett | MYTOWN | Walking tour formation and guiding
Cathy Hill | Newburyport Schools | Safe Routes to Schools
Jane Holtz Kay | Author, Lost Boston, Asphalt Nation
Mass Hwy Dept, CARAVAN for Commuters, Natl Park Service | Safe Routes to Schools funders
Betsy Boveroux | Long-time board member | Fundraising

2002

Drs. JoAnn Manson & I-Min Lee | Brigham & Women's Hospital | walking advocates
Jim Monahan | Mass Bay Transp Auth | Walking advocate
Pat Moscaritolo | Greater Boston Conv & Visitors Bureau | Walking promotion
Judy Wagner | Long-time board member | WalkBoston strategic plan
Erik Scheier | Long-time board member | Walking advocate

2001

Project Place | Clean Corners, Bright Hopes | Walking safety
Peter Wallace | The Boston Globe | cartoonist - Harry Fig's Neighborhood
Nina Garfinkle | Long-time board member | Graphic design
Bob Sloane | Community walking maps & tours

2000

Save the Old Northern Ave Bridge Coalition | Mike Tyrell, Paul Farrell, Albert Rex, Sean McDonnell
Hyde Square Traffic Calming Coalition | Pedestrian improvements
Rick Dimino | Artery Business Committee | Walking advocate
Anne Fanton | Central Artery Environmental Oversight Committee

1999

The Bailey Family | George, Lucy, Leonie, Gus | annual meeting organizers
Arnie Soolman | Central Transp Planning Staff | Traffic analyst
Ken Dumas | WalkBoston | Cartography for walking maps
John Casagrande | Long-time board member | Walking advocate

1998

Ronny Sydney and John Harris | Brookline's Harvard St traffic calming
Arlene Mattison | Friends of Leverett Pond | Separated pathways
Salisbury Road/Corey Farm Neighborhood Assoc | promoting safe walking
Jon Seward | Board member | Design ideas for Old State House sidewalks
Don Eunson | Long-time board member | Walking advocate

1997

State Representative Anne Paulsen | Pedestrian legislation and general support
Charles Bahne | Board member | Author, Guide to Boston's Freedom Trail
Sonia Hamel | Founder, Golden Shoe inventor and major force in early years

1996

Dan Wasserman | The Boston Globe | Walk-friendly editorial cartoons
Nelleen Knight | Administrative assistance
Karla Karash | Long-time board member | Walking advocate
Astrid Dodds | Cambridge walking advocate
City of Cambridge, George Metzger | Central Square Neighborhood Coalition/Business Association | Street re design in Central Square
Methunion Manor Corp. | Sidewalk snow removal

1995

Bob O'Brien | Downtown North Association | Walking advocate
The New England | Redesign of facades in Back Bay
Sheila Cheimetz | Sidewalk planning for Mass Ave underpass
Thomas Lisco | Central Transportation Planning Staff | Dean of traffic analysts
Sharon Tramer | Board member | Walking advocate

1994

Edwin Sidman | Beacon Co | Support for Post Office Square Park, Rowes Wharf
Susan Quateman | Board member | Newsletter and Shawmut map creator
Stephen Falbel | Board member | Newsletter writing and production

1993

Malcolm Davis | Long-time board member | Walking advocate
Howard Taub | Long-time board member | Walking advocate

1992

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority | Southwest Corridor Project | Separated paths
Ted Monacelli | Camb Redev Auth, Monacelli Assoc | Kendall Square planning
Laurel Siegel | Administrator, WalkBoston

1991

Dorothea Hass | WalkBoston | Advocacy and founding efforts
Ann Hershfang | WalkBoston | Advocacy and founding efforts