



Massachusetts Pedestrian Transportation Plan

Pete Sutton, MassDOT

Beth Isler, PE/PTP, Toole Design Group



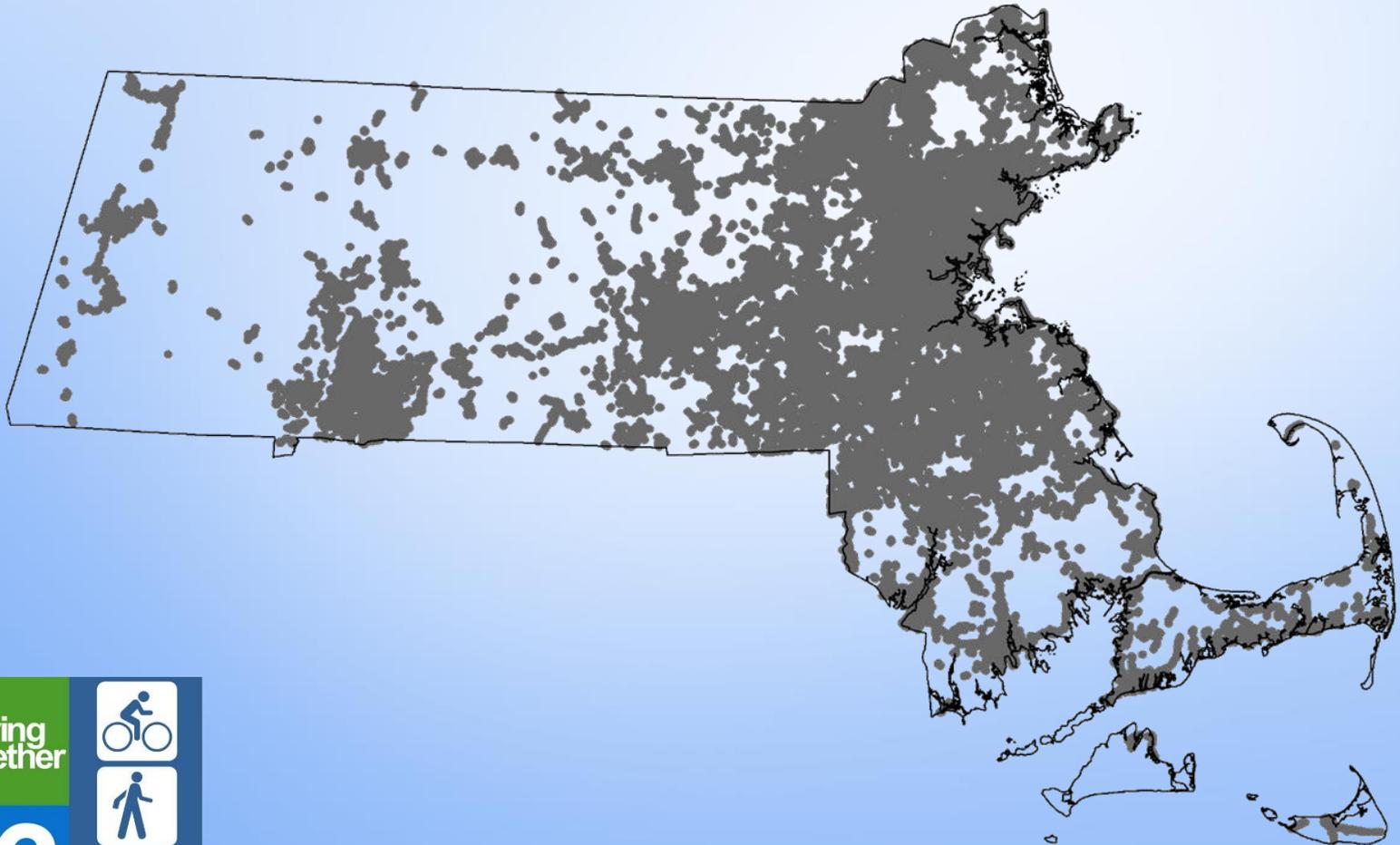
Outline

- Statewide Pedestrian Planning
- Approach
- Plan Goals
- Preliminary Findings
- Plan Outcomes
- Next Steps
- Opportunities for Input

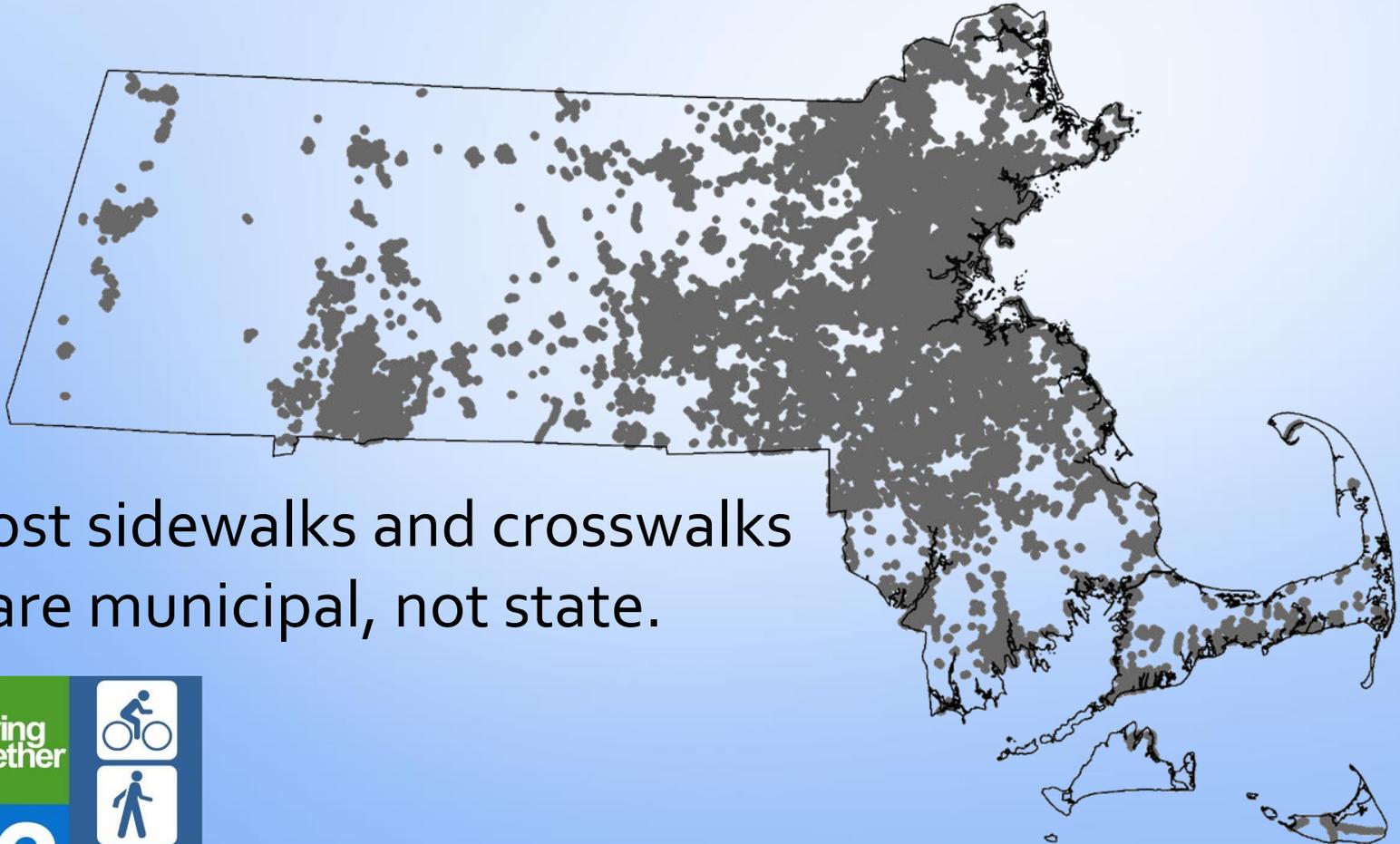


Statewide Pedestrian Planning

These are all the sidewalks in Massachusetts.



Statewide Pedestrian Planning

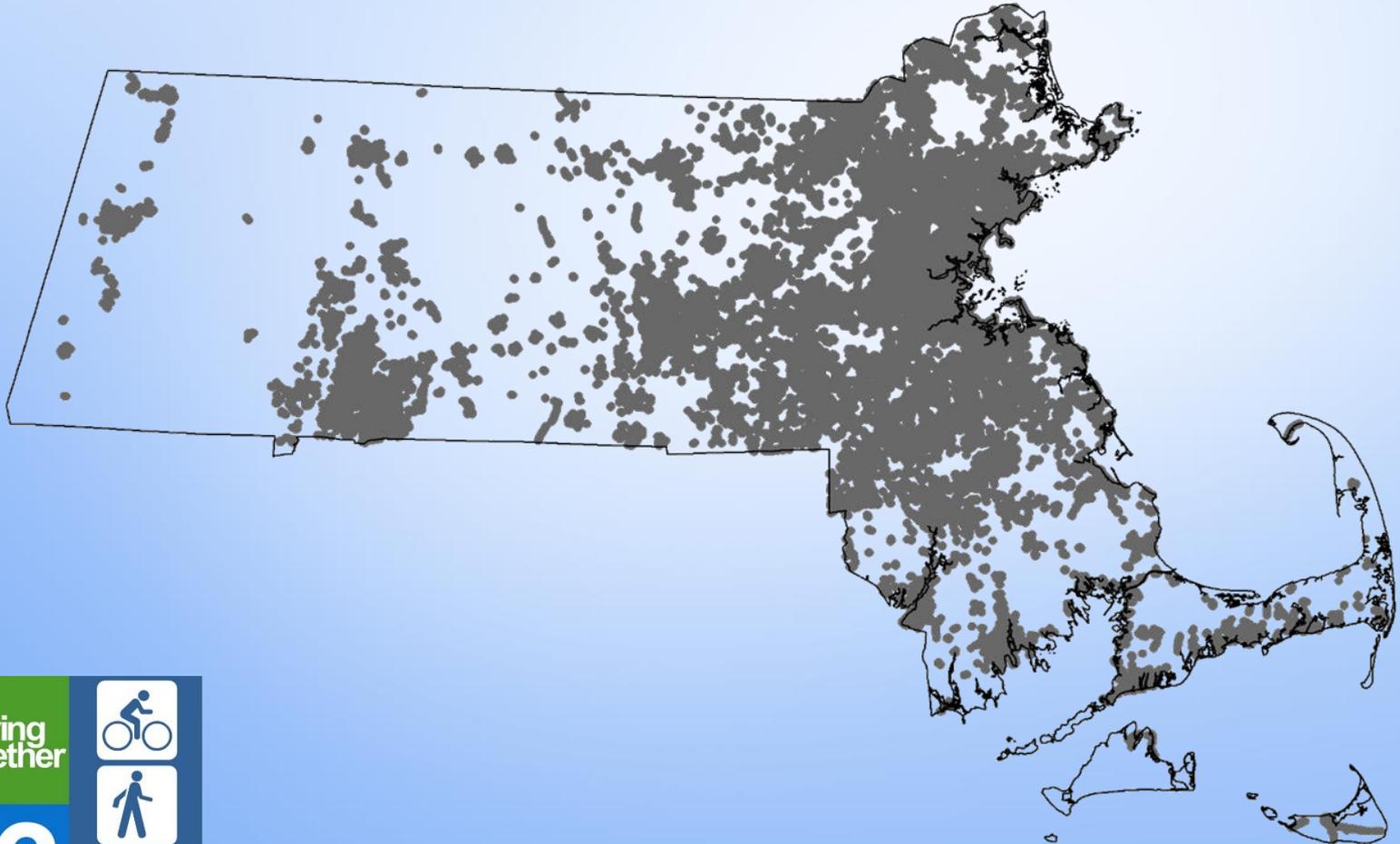


Most sidewalks and crosswalks are municipal, not state.



Statewide Pedestrian Planning

So this plan is about policy, not specific projects.



How can MassDOT best support walkability?

- Funding and investment strategies and priorities
- Project selection criteria and prioritization process
- Project development process (including design policies)
- Maintenance policies and enforcement
- Coordination with other modes (i.e. transit)



Approach

- Establish context
- Identify top ten demand areas
 - To provide investment direction to CIP
- Conduct interviews
 - MassDOT
 - WalkBoston
 - MA Office on Disability
 - MA Dept. of Public Health
 - Regional Planning Agencies
 - Regional Transit Agencies
 - Municipalities



Approach (continued)

- Document issues
- Develop recommendations
 - Project prioritization strategies
 - Funding & investment strategies
 - Maintenance responsibilities
 - Coordination with transit
 - Design requirements
- Develop municipal resource guide



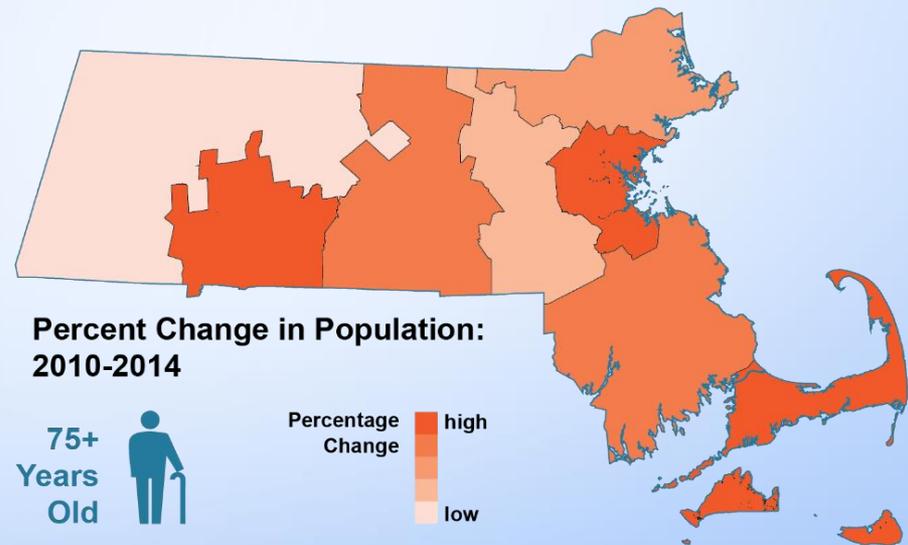
Core Plan Goals

- Improve accessibility
- Improve safety
- Improve maintenance and usability
- Invest prudently



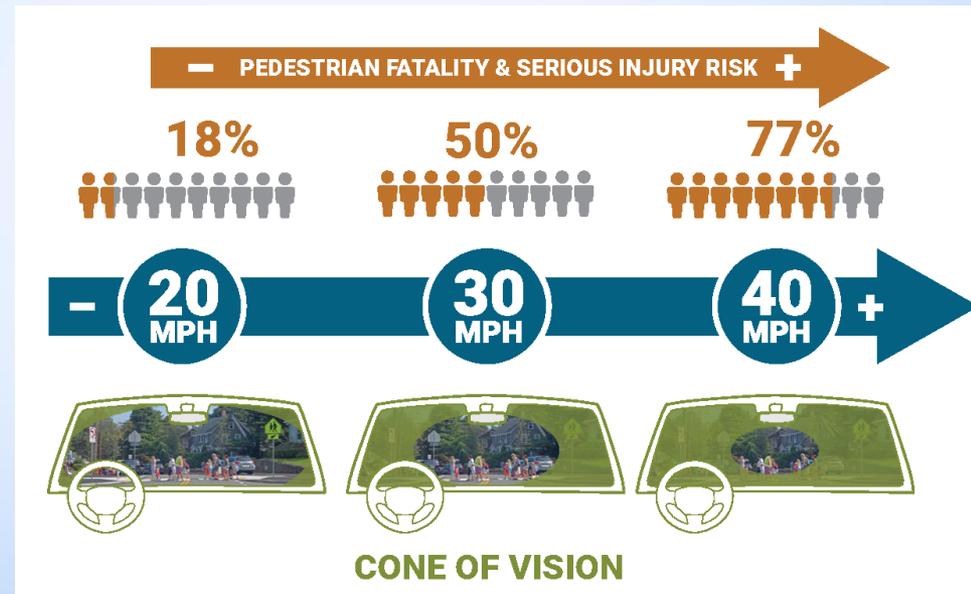
Core Goal #1: Accessibility

- First mile/last mile connections to transit need to be improved
- Projections show more low income and older walkers in the future
 - Respond via project selection and prioritization
 - Support and advance ADA Transition Plans and Universal Access



Core Goal #2: Safety

- Prioritize safety via project selection criteria
- Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Keep simple projects from becoming large and complicated



Core Goal #3: Maintenance and Usability

- Importance of maintenance for safety
 - Tripping hazards, drainage, forced detours
- Removal of snow from sidewalks, curb ramps, bridges, bus stops
 - Whose responsibility is it?
 - Municipal maintenance agreements
 - Enforcement
- Maintaining access through work zones



Core Goal #4: Prudent Investment

Guiding Documents & Programs

- Capital Investment Plan (CIP)
 - Maintenance and reliability
 - Modernization
 - Diversity of options
- Healthy Transportation Compact
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
- Chapter 90
- Complete Streets Funding Program
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)



Core Goal #4: Prudent Investment (cont.)

Opportunities to Advance Walkability

- Develop precise, quantitative walkability metrics to use in project selection
 - Need to be able to compare projects consistently to be competitive
- Develop measures to evaluate program effectiveness
- Support small-scale projects
- Improve coordination with other Divisions & Agencies

Identified Issues

- Responsibilities for maintenance need to be **clarified** and **enforced**
- Universal Access and ADA Transition Plans need to be a top priority
- Simple projects often snowball into complicated ones due to requirements
- Pedestrian connections to transit (first/last mile) need to be improved



Preliminary Recommendations

- Tack smaller projects onto larger ones when possible
- Develop metrics to make pedestrian projects more competitive with other infrastructure projects
- How to enable small projects?
 - State sidewalk program?
 - Small projects (e.g. <\$30k) program?
- Encourage local and regional pedestrian plans
 - MassDOT can't justify an isolated sidewalk section without a planned connection identified

Plan Outcomes

- Municipal Resource Guide
- Top 10 Priority Areas for CIP Investment
- Recommendations- possible topics:
 - Project prioritization strategies/selection criteria
 - Funding & investment strategies
 - Strategies to enforce maintenance
 - First mile/last mile coordination with transit
 - Design requirements review



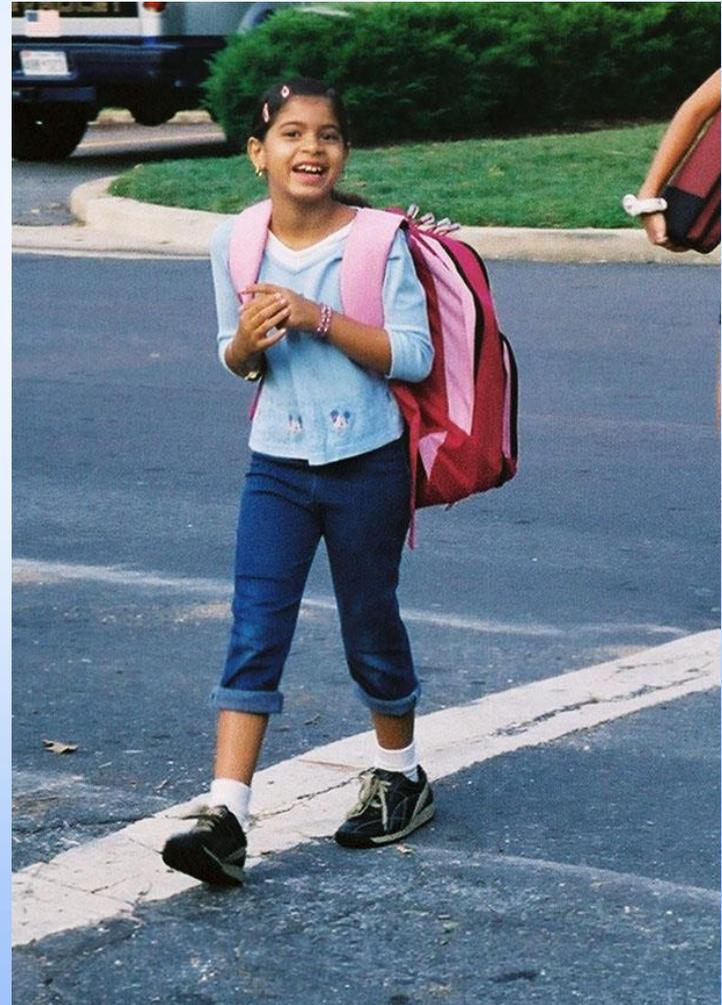
Next Steps

- Outreach to districts and municipalities
- Safety research
- Document issues
- Develop outline
- Develop recommendations



Next Steps

- Draft plan outline
 - Winter 2016
- Draft plan
 - Spring 2017
- Project website
 - MassDOT> Office of Transportation Planning> Statewide Plans> Pedestrian Plan
 - <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/planning/Main/StatewidePlans/PedestrianPlan.aspx>



Questions/ comments?

