



# Take Action to Support Active Streets

Josh Ostroff, Outreach Director Transportation for Massachusetts 2014 Mass in Motion Action Institute

#### **Transportation for Massachusetts**

- 37 member organization dedicated to transpo investment, reform and sustainability
- Supporting all modes with an emphasis on public transportation, walking and cycling
- Members include MAPC, MPHA, WalkBoston, MA Smart Growth Alliance, MassBike
- Advocated for funding in the 2013 Transportation Finance Act

## **Active Streets Funding**

- \$50 million in Transportation Bond Bill
- Result of relentless and organized advocacy by MPHA, MAPC, T4MA, Act FRESH and others
- Tireless legislative leadership and strong bipartisan support
- 28 municipal leaders supported Active Streets funding

# **Planning for Success**

- \$50 million / 5 years is just a start
  - Fraction of what is spent on roads statewide
- Mobilize
  - Demonstrate real benefits and small costs
  - Economic, health, environmental
- Certify your community
  - Collaborate: DPW, health, schools, planning
  - Recruit local champions for the new status quo

#### **Certification Requires Teamwork**

- **1.** File an application with MassDOT
- 2. Adopt a complete streets bylaw, ordinance, or policy after at least one public hearing
- **3. Coordinate** with MassDOT on baseline accuracy of pedestrian/bicycle accommodations to prioritize projects
- 4. Set Active Streets **procedures** for municipal road repairs, upgrades, or expansion projects
- 5. Confirm review process for all private development proposals to ensure new construction includes Active Streets
- 6. Set a municipal **5 year goal** and strategy for increased walking, cycling, and public transportation
- 7. Submit annual progress report to MassDOT

## **Active Streets go Uphill**

- This changes the status quo
- Traditional roadway projects are easier
- Encourage peer sharing for city/town leadership
- Show successful examples
- Bring departments and boards together

### **Defending Active Streets Funding**

- Bond bill is authorization not a commitment
- 2013 Transportation Finance Act provides partial funding for needed transportation investments
- We have achieved half the funding needed to maintain and expand our transpo network
- Gas tax indexing helps funding keep up with costs
- \$1 billion of revenue over the next decade (\$2 billion bonding) is at risk of repeal
- Please visit <u>www.T4MA.org</u> to get in touch!

#### **Questions and Discussion**

- What are effective strategies for proposing Active Streets locally?
- How secure is state funding for Active Streets?
- What can I do to support this program?