

Moving Together: Getting Around A-Town



Holiday gifts for active transportation

by Jack Johnson

This holiday season, consider giving gifts related to active and sustainable transportation. Not only are these gifts thoughtful, they are also easy, practical, and locally available.

MBTA Gifts

For local bus and subway travel, pre-loaded CharlieCards make great gifts. CharlieCards are available at most MBTA stations where you can easily add value.

The MBTA also has an on-line gift shop with related merchandise, ranging from MBTA T-shirts and greeting cards to jewelry and model trains. For more information, visit www.mbtagifts.com.

Bicycling Gifts

Bicycling is growing in popularity, so here are some gift ideas for two-wheeling friends and family on your list:

- Bicycle lights: headlight and/or flashing rear light.
- New helmet (check the size first).
- Local bicycle maps for planning new routes.
- Bicycling-related books and magazine subscriptions.
- Reflective clothing, bands, or patches for increased visibility in low-light conditions.
- Gift Card from a local bike shop.
- Gift membership for the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) to support better bicycling conditions, www.massbike.org.

Walking Gifts

Regardless of other forms of transportation we might have taken, all of us are pedestrians when we get off the T, dismount a bike, or get out of a car. Here are some gift ideas for all the walkers on your list:

- Good-quality walking socks.
- Pedometer to measure steps/miles walked.
- Small, attachable blinking lights for increased nighttime visibility when walking.
- Reflective clothing, bands, or patches for increased visibility in low-light conditions.
- Walking poles for more active walking or hiking.
- Waterproof clothing and umbrellas also make good walking-oriented gifts.
- Gift membership for WalkBoston to support better walking conditions in our area, www.walkboston.org.

Jack Johnson is a longtime member of the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee, and bicycling and walking are his primary ways of getting around town.