



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Top Accomplishments: *January to June 2011*

- Released *Transit Finance in Massachusetts: A Framework for Discussion*, a white paper on finance strategies used by other major transit systems across the country. ABC organized a panel discussion to mark the release of the paper, which was attended by over 100 civic leaders and featured remarks from Secretary of Transportation Jeffrey Mullan.
- **Hosted Governor Deval Patrick at the February board meeting.** Gov. Patrick spoke of the need for the Commonwealth to invest in education, innovation, and infrastructure, and he voiced his support for continued state funding of the Rose Kennedy Greenway.
- In the area of transportation and construction mitigation, ABC advocated for and supported **enhanced communications and outreach regarding the Fast 14 I-93 bridge replacement project**, adding links on the ABC [web page](#) and [Twitter feed](#) to inform commuters and distributing the latest advisories prepared by MassDOT. The Transportation and Construction Committee **reviewed, advised, and monitored implementation of traffic management plans and reconstruction of the Craigie Drawbridge** which was largely completed on schedule and with minor impacts on regional traffic in April 2011.
- Received a **2011 Green Award from Mayor Menino** and a **\$100,000 grant from the Barr Foundation** for second year funding support of ABC's Challenge for Sustainability. ABC was also awarded a **3-year, \$180,000 grant from The Boston Foundation** for the expansion of the Challenge for Sustainability to non-ABC members in collaboration with the City of Boston.
- **Challenge for Sustainability** class of 2011 includes 35 facilities, 20 million square feet and 40,000 employees and tenants. These ABC member companies are committed to increasing their energy efficiency and reducing their impact on the environment.
- **Advocated for the South Station Expansion project**, which will increase track capacity for commuter and intercity passenger rail and relocate the U.S. Postal Service facility to the South Boston Waterfront. The project **received a \$32.5 million federal grant to fund initial engineering and environmental permitting.**
- The Project Development Committee served as the home base for the Business Alliance for Northeast Mobility, a group advocating for **rail improvements in the Northeast Corridor**. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of ABC and the Alliance, Amtrak and the **Northeast states received \$795 million in federal funding for rail projects**, including work in the Knowledge Corridor through Western Massachusetts and for improvements to the tracks carrying the Downeaster Line to Maine and the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line.
- Through ABC TMA's commuter incentive program, realized the **prevention of 39,000 single occupancy vehicle miles** and supported participants in collectively logging 3,099 car free days. TMA was the **principal planner for the 2011 MassCommuter Challenge** in which 713 of the total 3,459 participants were ABC or ABC TMA members.
- **Conducted a review of the 2008 "Stem to Stern" Safety Review of the Metropolitan Highway System (MHS)** and advocated, in meetings with MassDOT, for a review of the implementation of that report. In June, **MassDOT announced that it would create a Capital Maintenance Program for the MHS**, which would include implementing the remaining recommendations of the Stem to Stern review.



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Detailed Accomplishments: *January to June 2011*

Planning, Policy, and Development

- **Hosted Governor Deval Patrick at the February board meeting.** Gov. Patrick spoke of the need for the Commonwealth to invest in education, innovation, and infrastructure, and he voiced his support for continued state funding of the Rose Kennedy Greenway.
- Released *Transit Finance in Massachusetts: A Framework for Discussion*, a white paper on finance strategies used by other major transit systems across the country. ABC organized a panel discussion to mark the release of the paper, which was attended by over 100 civic leaders and featured remarks from Secretary of Transportation Jeffrey Mullan.
- In the area of transportation and construction mitigation, ABC advocated for and supported **enhanced communications and outreach regarding the Fast 14 I-93 bridge replacement project**, adding links on the ABC [web page](#) and [Twitter feed](#) to inform commuters and distributing the latest advisories prepared by MassDOT. The Transportation and Construction Committee **reviewed, advised, and monitored implementation of traffic management plans and reconstruction of the Craigie Drawbridge** which was largely completed on schedule and with minor impacts on regional traffic in April 2011.
- A Better City President and CEO Rick Dimino serves on MassDOT's **Transportation Advisory Committee**, co-chairs the Best Practices subcommittee, and serves on the Finance subcommittee.
- Organized meetings of a joint ABC / Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Working Group to discuss issues related to studies conducted by ABC analyzing **finance issues and options for the Rose Kennedy Greenway** including the possible boundaries, governance, and funding potential of a Business Improvement District for the Greenway.
- The Transportation Finance and Policy Committee **hosted State Sen. Thomas McGee** of Lynn, the new co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. Sen. McGee spoke of the need to begin a conversation about additional investment for the state transportation system. We look forward to working with Sen. McGee and his counterpart Rep. Bill Straus as they plan a series of field hearings on transportation around the state during the second half of this year.
- The Transportation and Construction Committee continued review, critique, and analyze traffic management plans and reconstruction planning for **work in the Charles River Basin** on the Longfellow, Boston University, Anderson Memorial, Western Avenue, and river Street Bridges and related connections.
- The Transportation and Construction Committee reviewed, critiqued, and analyzed traffic management plans, construction sequencing, and initial implementation of the **“Fast 14” replacement of bridges on I-90 in Medford.**



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- The Stakeholders Group also heard presentations on newly opened **Liberty Wharf development** and on the forthcoming **report of the Convention Partnership**, regarding the potential expansion of Boston Convention and Exposition Center.
- The **Project Development committee** received updates from MassDOT on the Green Line Extension, the Commonwealth's High Speed Rail efforts, and so-called "Indigo Line" plan to add intermediary stops serving Dorchester and Mattapan along the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line.
- The Project Development Committee served as the home base for the Business Alliance for Northeast Mobility, a group advocating for **rail improvements in the Northeast Corridor**. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of ABC and the Alliance, Amtrak and the **Northeast states received \$795 million in federal funding for rail projects**, including work in the Knowledge Corridor through Western Massachusetts and for improvements to the tracks carrying the Downeaster Line to Maine and the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line.
- Continued to review plans and advocate for **transportation improvements in the Urban Ring corridor**, including advancing the East Boston / Chelsea Bypass Road into design and construction, studying extending Silver Line service into Chelsea, design of a reconstructed Melnea Cass Boulevard, and implementing roadway and commuter rail platform improvements at Yawkey and Ruggles Station. Submitted comments on the proposed roadway improvements at Yawkey Station. Chaired a meeting of the Urban Ring Citizens Advisory Committee. Worked with the Urban Ring Compact to help protect the Urban Ring Locally Preferred Alignment right-of-way from loss to adjacent projects and uses.
- Prepared and submitted written comments and oral testimony to the Metropolitan Planning Organization planning committee on behalf of ABC and the Urban Ring Citizens Advisory Committee in support of **projects to be incorporated in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan**, including the Urban Ring, Silver Line Phase III, the T Under D project, and Red Line/Blue Line Connector, making projects in the plan eligible to receive federal transportation funding.
- Took the lead, together with the Conservation Law Foundation, in organizing a **facilitated discussion among members of Our Transportation Future (OTF) and Transportation for Massachusetts** around a proposed campaign for increased investment in transportation in the Commonwealth. The goal of the meetings is to develop a unified platform and message that can be adopted by the entire transportation advocacy community. OTF has received an **additional \$47,000 in funding from The Boston Foundation** to support its coalition building.
- Began research, as co-chair of MassDOT's **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Best Practices Subcommittee**, on best practices regarding the state's upcoming Request for Proposals to operate the MBTA Commuter Rail service, including an option to internalize the service within the MBTA.



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- Participated actively on MassDOT's **TAC Finance Subcommittee**, in discussions regarding the MBTA's upcoming budget. The Subcommittee voted in favor of the T's plans to sell or lease the parking facility at North Station but against the plan to securitize future revenues from other MBTA parking facilities in order to pay down other T debt.
- Helped plan and participated in an **Urban Land Institute event on the state of the MBTA**, featuring presentations by ABC President and CEO Rick Dimino and ABC members Don Conover of State Street Financial and Ron Druker of The Druker Company.

Sustainability and Climate Change Initiative

- Received a **2011 Green Award from Mayor Menino** and a **\$100,000 grant from the Barr Foundation** for second year funding support of ABC's Challenge for Sustainability. ABC was also awarded a **3-year, \$180,000 grant from The Boston Foundation** for the expansion of the Challenge for Sustainability to non-ABC members in collaboration with the City of Boston.
- **Challenge for Sustainability** class of 2011 includes 35 facilities, 20 million square feet and 40,000 employees and tenants. These ABC member companies are committed to increasing their energy efficiency and reducing their impact on the environment.
- Co-hosted with the City of Boston an **electric vehicle charging infrastructure form** at the Seaport Hotel. More than 100 people attended the forum on May 20.
- A Better City has **reduced electric consumption by 15%** in its offices by turning off computers, lights and the printers every day before leaving the office and when not needed during the work day.
- Invited to serve as staff for the City of Boston's **Green Ribbon Commission's Commercial/Real Estate Working Group**, chaired by Mike Mooney.
- Submitted a comment letter to MA DOER regarding the **proposed Building Asset Labeling Pilot Program**, met with DOER staff to discuss ways of engaging ABC members in the development of and participation in the pilot.
- Reached agreement with the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development and BRA on a **structure for an expanded Challenge for Sustainability**.
- Received approval from the Barr Foundation to submit a grant that would provide funds to assist a building in making improvements that **encourage use of electric vehicles, public transportation, biking and walking**.
- **Nutter, McClennen & Fish achieved the highest score** and Blue Cross Blue Shield had the most improved score in the Challenge for Sustainability for 2010.
- **Conducted site visits** at each of the 35 participating facilities in the 2011 Challenge for Sustainability.
- Completed **full automation of the Challenge for Sustainability Scorecard and Action Plan** development within ABC's website.



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- **Energy Management Roundtables** were hosted for Challenge participants during February and May where they learned about assessing their current energy management plans, the audit process and ranking and presenting an audit report.
- Hosted **monthly meetings for Challenge for Sustainability participants** on topics including: demand response, employee engagement, renewable energy, and energy efficiency incentives.
- Hosted a **Portfolio Manager workshop with the Environmental Protection Agency** for Challenge participants in February, training them how to be better energy managers and use the free online tool.
- On April 26th and 28th, A Better City's staff joined employees from ABC members Nutter, McClennen & Fish, Tsoi / Kobus & Associates, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Boston Properties, and Au Bon Pain to **volunteer at the Food Project**.
- Finalized and **adopted ABC's energy policy**: "A Better City is committed to net zero business operations by engaging in energy conserving behavior, utilizing alternative commuting methods, investing in energy efficiency and lastly, offsetting 100% of electricity consumption, employee commuting and business travel."
- Added an **environmental mission page** on ABC's website:
www.abettercity.org/about/sustainability

A Better City Transportation Management Association

- Through ABC TMA's commuter incentive program, realized the **prevention of 39,000 single occupancy vehicle miles** and supported participants in collectively logging 3,099 car free days.
- Planned and coordinated the **New England Sustainable Transportation Summit** on June 7. The event featured sessions on electric vehicles, TDM for major destinations, bike sharing, and featured a keynote from Lt. Governor Tim Murray.
- ABC TMA was the **principal planner for the 2011 MassCommuter Challenge** in which 713 of the total 3,459 participants were ABC or ABC TMA members. Of 197 workplace teams participating in the Challenge, 22 of these were ABC or ABC TMA members. For the Challenge as a whole, 226,015 miles were biked, surpassing the 2010 pledge of 222,146 bicycle miles.
- ABC TMA has registered 130 new participants into the award winning, **Guaranteed Ride Home program**. In addition, the TMA has provided 42 rides from work to home in the event of emergency, unscheduled overtime and illness. To date, there are 2,643 participants in the program.
- Participated in planning and hosting the **inaugural Excellence in Commuter Options (ECO) Awards** with MassCommute and MassDOT, which recognized 115 employers for their exemplary commuter benefits programs. ABC and ABC TMA members being recognized included: Au Bon Pain, Booz Allen Hamilton, Boston University, Boston Children's Museum, Blue Cross Blue Shield, BU Medical Campus, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Citizen's Bank, ERG, Foley Hoag, Genzyme, HNTB, Jones Lang LaSalle, John



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Hancock, MGH, MIT, NSTAR, Nutter, McClennan & Fish, Pembroke Real Estate, Putnam Investments, State Street Bank, Starwood, and Verizon.

- Attended the **ACT Legislative Summit in Washington, DC** and met with staff in the offices of Senators Kerry and Brown, and Representatives Capuano, McGovern, Tsongas, Frank, and Markey.
- Received approval from the Barr Foundation to move forward with the submittal of a grant application to provide funds towards the **expansion of the TMA into the Allston, Brighton, Fenway, and Kenmore neighborhoods**.
- Developed a spring promotion focused on the rising cost of gas that provides an additional **\$50 for qualifying commuters** that choose to carpool, vanpool or use some forms of public transit.
- Registered five new participants into the **transit incentive programs** that provide cash subsidies to try out car/ vanpooling and some public transportation modes.
- Expanded sponsorship of the **Workout to Work program**; translating into one year of active commuting oriented raffle prizes for program participants.
- Hosted or attended **13 transportation, health and wellness and benefits fairs**. During May, the primary focus of TMA events was centered on Bay State Bike Week (May 14th-20th). The TMA hosted six breakfasts and bicycle tune up stations for members and their tenants/ employees. To date, the TMA has reached out to 639 member employees through our events and fairs.
- Formally launched the **state's new ridematching program** which is a partnership between MassDOT and vendor NuRide.

Marketing and Communications

- A Better City helped **spread the word on key transportation projects** with travel impacts for Greater Boston, most notably the reconstruction of the Craigie Drawbridge and this summer's "Fast 14" bridge replacement program along I-93 in Medford.
- ABC President and CEO Rick Dimino was active representing the organization in the media, including the following appearance:
 - *The Emily Rooney Show*, WGBH Radio 89.7FM, with Regional Plan Association President Bob Yaro, to discuss high-speed rail in the Northeast Corridor (May 18, 2011): <http://www.wgbh.org/programs/The-Emily-Rooney-Show-854/episodes/Wednesday-May-18thWAYH-About-High-Speed-Rail-29004>
 - *Neighborhood Network News*, to discuss the state of the MBTA and ABC's Transit Finance White Paper (May 5, 2011): <http://vimeo.com/23590430>
 - *Greater Boston with Emily Rooney*, WGBH TV Channel 2, to debate the expansion of the Boston Convention and Exposition Center (April 26, 2011): <http://www.wgbh.org/programs/Greater-Boston-11/episodes/-28182>
 - Rick Dimino, "Energy-Efficient Buildings Vital to Future Prosperity, Sustainability." *Banker and Tradesman Commercial Real Estate Monthly*, March 28, 2011.



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- Rick Dimino was quoted on behalf of ABC in articles in *The Boston Globe* regarding the proposed expansion of the BCEC ([Panel members say room needed for conventions in Boston](#), June 1, 2011) and the proposed Business Improvement District along the Rose Kennedy Greenway ([Objections raised to Greenway tax plan](#), March 26, 2011).