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News from A Better City Fall 2011

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Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 14:
Transportation and Construction

Sept. 22: Sustainability & Climate Change Committee

Sept 22:
Transportation Finance & Policy

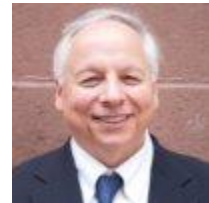
Sept 27:
Young Leaders CEO Luncheon

Sept 28:
ABC Board Meeting with Lt. Gov. Murray

Oct. 4:
Project

Letter from the President

On behalf of the entire staff at ABC, I hope that all of you had a relaxing summer. As we head into the fall, I want to acknowledge a transition of leadership at MassDOT, as MBTA General Manager Rich Davey takes over for outgoing Secretary Jeff Mullan. We at ABC have worked with Secretary Mullan since the early days of the Big Dig, and we are grateful for his entire career of service and contributions to the Commonwealth. Since he will be returning to the private sector at ABC Member Foley Hoag, I'm hopeful that we will have the opportunity to continue to work with him.



ABC President & CEO
Rick Dimino

I also want to congratulate his successor Rich Davey, with whom we have also worked closely in his role at General Manager of the MBTA. As he well knows from his time at the T, the challenges facing our transportation system are enormous. We have a lot of aging infrastructure to repair and replace but not enough money to do it. It's an issue on which we have been working to increase public awareness. This past spring we released our [white paper on transit finance](#), and this summer I had the opportunity to speak to WGBH radio about [the problem](#) and [potential solutions](#).



ABC's Transit Finance

Development

**Oct 5:
Greenway Abutters**

**Oct. 19:
ABC 5th Anniversary
Reception**

**Oct. 27:
South Boston
Stakeholders**

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We are also facing unprecedented uncertainty in terms of federal funding on transportation. If Congress fails to act by September 30, both the current transportation legislation and most of the federal gas tax will expire. After the debt ceiling debate, there's significant concern that these extensions could be held up. Even if Congress does act, the new bill proposed in the House would cut funding to the states by a third; Massachusetts would lose \$1.2 billion over six years.

White Paper

I was on Lt. Gov. Murray's television program talking about the importance of this issue this past week. We're excited to have him join us for our board meeting later this month to discuss this and other transportation issues. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on the federal issue because it is so vital to our economic recovery. As Gov. Patrick said at an event at the White House last week, "Anybody who is serious about jobs is serious about the extension of the surface transportation bill."

With the future of federal funding up in the air, it is more important than ever that the Commonwealth develop a sustainable transportation finance strategy to fund our current and future mobility and economic needs. We look forward to working with Secretary Davey, the Legislature and the Patrick/Murray administration to realize that goal.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Dimino
President & CEO
A Better City

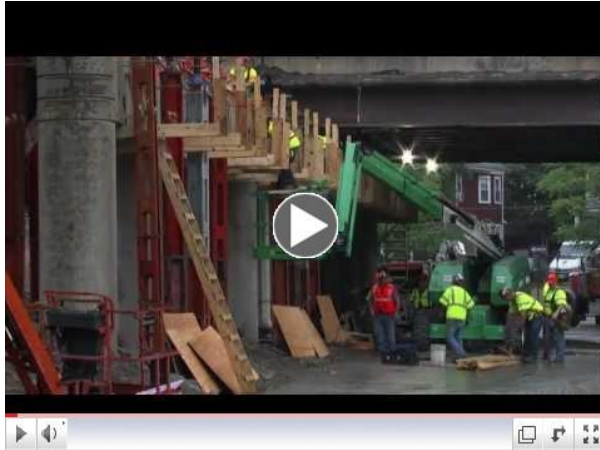
Fast 14 Wraps Up

Project Finishes On Time and On Budget

It's been a busy and successful summer for MassDOT's Fast 14 project, which finished replacing bridge superstructures along the highways in Medford on August 15. Using advanced construction techniques and an aggressive schedule, the team was able to complete in a dozen weekends what might have otherwise taken years of work. Some finishing work remains, but it will take place during off-peak hours with a small amount of traffic disruption.



MassDOT has put together the video below describing the innovative construction methods used on the project:



MassDOT 93 Fast 14 Update

Hopefully the Fast 14, a project that has been recognized by the Federal Highway Administration for its ambition and innovation, can offer lessons that will help MassDOT bring more projects in on time and on budget. Congratulations to the team at MassDOT and their contractor and laborers for a job well done!

Maintaining the Big Dig

Ensuring the Safety of Central Artery/Tunnel Project

This has been a challenging summer for the Central Artery Tunnel/Project. Problems with light fixtures in the tunnels and settling soil under the tunnel in South Boston have raised concerns about the project. ABC has received briefings on both these issues, and MassDOT engineers have plans to address them. All the same, it is important that we have a full review of the project so that the public knows the tunnels are safe and properly maintained.

That's why we are pleased to hear that MassDOT has hired engineering firm HNTB to draw up a 5-year Capital Maintenance Program for the entire Metropolitan Highway System (the Big Dig tunnels and other roadways, plus the Zakim and Tobin bridges). Using toll revenues set aside under the 2009 Transportation Reform law, the plan's goal is to preserve the MHS for years to come. With Secretary Davey pledging increased transparency around the Big Dig, we are hopeful that this initiative will restore the public's trust in the state's relatively new central highway system.



Click the image above to visit MassDOT's New Tunnel Safety Site.

Planning for Boston's Future

MPO's Long-Range Plan Up for Comment

September 13 is the deadline for comments on *Paths to a Sustainable Region*, the long-range transportation plan for Eastern Massachusetts. The plan, drafted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region, determines which projects will be eligible to receive federal funding. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints, many worthy projects have not been included in the plan, including the [Urban Ring](#) and [Phase 3 of the Silver Line](#).

While we understand the need to address safety and the most pressing needs of our aging transportation system, we at ABC believe that it is also important to have a vision that looks beyond current constraints and plans for future economic growth. Our comments on the plan will continue to emphasize the state of good repair but also the importance of planning for the future by including projects in the final plan that best address the identified needs of the region.



Silver Line Phase 3 is one of the important projects dropped from the draft long-range transportation plan.

Making Boston a "Top 5" Convention City

Convention Partnership Releases Final Report

"An expansive vision" was the [headline in the Globe](#) when the 27-member Convention Partnership released the details of its [full report](#) (PDF)

on expanding the Boston Convention and Exposition Center in South Boston. Citing business lost due to a lack of hotel rooms and multipurpose space, the partnership endorsed the building of a second headquarters hotel, expanded exhibit space and a second, larger ballroom. The group



also recommended a strategy to encourage the construction of mid-priced hotels in the South Boston Waterfront.

ABC President and CEO Rick Dimino served on the partnership, focusing in particular on the transportation and urban planning implications of expanding the convention center. He came away impressed by the process and wholly supportive of the Partnership's recommendations. In fact, he's already appeared on [Greater Boston with Emily Rooney](#) to discuss the proposal. ABC will continue to facilitate public discussion of the expansion plans as part of the quarterly South Boston Stakeholders meetings held in the waterfront neighborhood.

Boston Bike Update

Hubway, Bike Lanes and an award for ABC

This has been a busy summer for biking in Boston. Here are some of the

highlights.

ABC Wins Bike Friendly Business Award:

We were honored to receive a bronze-level [Bike Friendly Business Award](#) from the City of Boston this summer. Several ABC and ABC TMA members were also recognized, including Beth Israel Deaconess and Children's Hospital Boston, which each received top honors as Boston's most bike-friendly businesses. We're happy with bronze, but we're already working towards a gold next year!



Hubway Up and Rolling: The [New Balance Hubway Bike Share](#) program launched in July. ([Click here for our photos from the launch.](#))

A little more than a month old, the program is [exceeding expectations.](#)

We're particularly proud of the ABC members sponsoring Hubway stations: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston Properties, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Children's Hospital Boston, Equity Office, Harvard University, P&G Gillette, Putnam Investments and the TD Garden.



On your mark... the inaugural Hubway ride leaves City Hall Plaza

New Bike Lanes Downtown: To accommodate Hubway and other bikers, the City is expanding its network of bike lanes and other markings Downtown and along the Greenway. High Street has already been repainted with a bike lane; next up are Devonshire, Milk, Franklin, Pearl, Congress, Oliver and Kilby streets. Also look for bike lanes and bike boxes on Atlantic Avenue and Surface Road along the Greenway later this fall.



MassDOT planners get a first-

MassDOT Charles River Bike Tour:

ABC rode along with MassDOT engineers to see firsthand what pedestrian and bike improvements are needed in the Charles River Basin. The reconstruction of most of the bridges in the basin, as part of the Accelerated Bridge Program, is a great opportunity to make sure these assets are designed with all road users in mind. ABC will continue to monitor progress on the bridge projects through our Transportation & Construction committee.

hand look at bike and pedestrian facilities along the Charles.

Challenge for Sustainability Mid-Year Update

Energy Management, Green Teams, Online Toolkit



A BETTER CITY

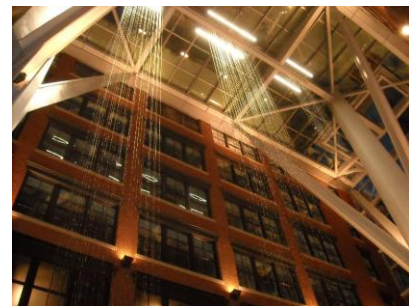
CHALLENGE for SUSTAINABILITY

Business and Institutional Leaders Working Toward a Sustainable City

The Challenge for Sustainability continued this summer, with participants checking in with ABC for their midyear reports. We're happy to report that most of our participants are on track to meet their scorecard goals.

Energy Management Roundtable Tours Atlantic Wharf: Challenge participants got a firsthand look at one of Boston's newest and greenest office buildings

this August when Boston Properties hosted the third installment of the Energy Management Roundtable at Atlantic Wharf. The program featured presentations on budgeting for energy efficiency improvements and the advantages of green roofs. Thanks to all the presenters and attendees, and to Julia Arsenault and Audrey Centauro of Boston Properties for their help organizing the event.



The lobby water feature was one highlight of the tour of Atlantic Wharf.

Green Team Forum Promotes

Creativity and Executive Sponsorship: The Sheraton Boston hosted challenge participants in July to learn about the importance of "green teams" to achieving their sustainability goals. Panelists from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard University described their approaches, and breakout sessions encouraged participants to brainstorm ways to establish green teams in their own organizations.

Full Sustainability Toolkit Available Online: We're putting the finishing touches on our updated the [Sustainability Toolkit](#) on the ABC Website. We've fully updated the Energy Efficiency, Transportation and Waste Reduction

sections of the guide and are planning to finish the remaining sections early this fall. We've also decided to make this resource available to both Challenge participants and the general public. We hope you find it useful.

Young Leaders Summer Social at Seaport Hotel

Beating the Heat at Tamo

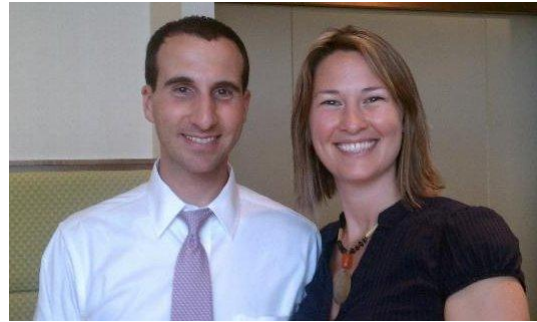
The scorching July heat drove the young leaders committee off the terrace and into the bar at Tamo at the Seaport Hotel.

Fortunately, the combination of air conditioning, delicious bites and impeccable service made for a relaxing summer social. Check out pictures from the even on

[ABC's Facebook page](#)

. Next up for the Young

Leaders group is a "Meet the CEO" luncheon at ABC in September.



ABC Young Leaders Chair Yanni Tshipis and Friends of the Fort Point Channel Executive Director Danielle Pillion

If you're an ABC member and have a young professional you'd like to nominate for our Young Leaders program, please contact Rich Parr at 617-502-6244 or rparr@abettercity.org.

ABC TMA Welcomes Aileen O'Rourke

Finally, welcome to our new TMA Program Manager, Aileen O'Rourke.

Aileen comes to ABC from a varied background that includes stints in the Air Force and at Brandeis University, where in addition to her work in the development office, she worked to reduced single-occupancy drivers to Brandeis while frequently biking her own 30-mile round-trip commute.



Aileen holds a Master's degree in Urban & Environmental Planning and Policy from Tufts University and an undergraduate business degree from the University of Portland (Oregon). Please join us in welcoming Aileen to ABC!

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