



News from A Better City

Fall 2013

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10-31-2013

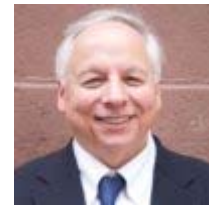
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Each year, A Better City Transportation Management Association (ABC TMA) collaborates with MassCommute and MassRides to celebrate Massachusetts Car-Free Week. The event promotes transit, bicycling, walking, carpooling, vanpooling and teleworking as greener modes of transportation that provide environmental, financial, community and health benefits to the Commonwealth. This year, ABC TMA partnered with TMA member State [...]



[A Better City's](#)

We're nearing the end of 2013 after an eventful year in the transportation world. After the passage of the transportation finance legislation by the Massachusetts Legislature this past summer, we are starting to see the rewards of that new revenue as MassDOT begins to announce projects and work will soon begin on expanding the Silver Line. It's heartening to see the progress we're making on investing in our transportation systems. Boston will only be a better city for it.



The end of 2013 is a bittersweet moment for the city of Boston, as Mayor Menino finishes his 20 year tenure in leading our great city. Boston would not be where it is today without Mayor Menino and I am proud to have worked with such a visionary leader for years. ABC recognized the impact Mayor Menino has had by granting him the Norman B Leventhal Excellence in City Building Lifetime Achievement Award in October. His leadership has improved Boston, setting a great example for what a dedicated mayor can accomplish. I look forward to working with Mayor-elect Walsh when his administration begins in January. ABC will be working with him to continue making Boston the economically competitive city it is today.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rick Dimino'.

Rick Dimino
President & CEO, A Better City

Transportation

[Transportation Capital Projects](#)

Sometime before Thanksgiving, MassDOT will release their comprehensive 5 year plan including all of the capital projects that will take place using the new funds. Governor Patrick announced a few of those projects in late October. Major projects include new cars for the Red and Orange line on the MBTA, and the extension of the Silver line to Chelsea.

MassDOT issued an RFP for contracts to replace all 120 Orange Line cars, and replace 74 Red Line cars. The RFP is requiring the final assembly of the cars to take place in Massachusetts and to be ready by 2019. The upgrade is both welcome and necessary, as ridership continues to be high and reports of cars breaking down during rush hour commutes seem to come

[Challenge for Sustainability Hosts Inaugural National Summit](#)

06-03-2013

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When I was young, I was usually the one that got a game of kick ball going during recess, or a fort building adventure in the woods after school.

Throughout young adulthood, planning day trips and adventure travel for my friends has been a source of joy.

Even wedding planning, which most brides dread, was [...]»

on a daily basis.

The Silverline extension to Chelsea is set to commence at the beginning of 2014, and will be completed over a 2 year construction period. The extension will bring bus rapid transit past the airport into Chelsea, allowing for a 15 minute trip from the Seaport into Chelsea. MassDOT has committed \$82million to the project, and should be completed by mid 2016.

[South Boston Traffic Planning Effort](#)

In partnerships with the City of Boston, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority and Massport, ABC is heading up a traffic planning project for the South Boston Innovation District. Development in the area in recent years has boomed, bringing economic success to the area, but also significantly more vehicles and less parking lots. The traffic plan will assess capacity and methods to mitigate the forthcoming traffic from continuing expansion of the neighborhood.

[Callahan Tunnel Rehabilitation Project](#)

Beginning on December 27, 2013, the Callahan Tunnel will be closed for up to two and half months. During this time, work will be done on the curb and the deck.

For those planning trips to and from the airport, the best way would be by public transportation, the Logan Express, and water taxi services from Quincy/Hull and Boston. ABC will be working closely with MassDOT to ensure the construction goes smoothly, and that impact of the closure will be as minimal to all as possible.

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Land Development

[Greenway](#)

As negotiations regarding the renewal of the conservancy's lease continue, we are working to ensure that MassDOT maintains a financial commitment to the Greenway that is befitting of a state landmark. ABC is coordinating with the Greenway Conservancy, with local business stakeholders, the city of Boston, and MassDOT to find a sustainable solution for financing the park. It's import is not only as necessary infrastructure for the major highway that runs below it, but also as public meeting place. Community programs, public art, and greenspace benefit not only the abutters and stakeholders, but everyone in the city and state. All parties want to see the Greenway succeed, and ABC is working to help find a feasible financial solution to sustain it for future generations to enjoy.

Environment

[Energy Reporting Ordinance](#)

Following the passage of the Building Energy Reporting & Disclosure Ordinance this past summer, Boston City Council is now working on finaling the regulations for the Ordinance. ABC provided significant feedback to the City on the proposed regulations, responding to many technical details related to program implementation. We will continue to

work closely with the City as the regulations are finalized through the end of the year. The first reporting deadline for buildings over 50,000 square feet is May 15, 2014. During the first year of reporting, buildings that have and have not complied with the ordinance will be public information. Actual data reports will not yet be available to the public, but will be available during the second year of reporting.

Creating a Local Wetlands Ordinance

The City of Boston has been exploring the development of a local wetlands ordinance to grant the Boston Conservation Commission the authority to set building performance standards. By allowing the BCC to set these standards, pollution that happens during coastal flooding would be reduced. In the ongoing preparations for climate change and future storms such as Hurricane Sandy, the ordinance would be a tool to minimize the environmental impact of possible future storms and coastal flooding.

While ABC has been talking with City of Boston representatives about a local wetlands ordinance now, it will be seriously undertaken when Mayor-elect Walsh starts a new administration. Additionally, FEMA is shortly releasing new coastal flood zone maps, which will guide the BCC in creating their maps for the zones affected by the ordinance. Until then, ABC will continue to take part in conversation with city officials and other stakeholders.

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