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News from A Better City

Winter 2013

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ABC's Blog



[Looking Ahead to Spring: 2013 on the Greenway](#)

01-22-2013

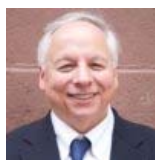
The ABC Greenway Abutters committee hosted Greenway Conservancy Acting Executive Director Jesse Brackenbury last week for a preview of things to come on the Greenway in 2013...>

[Weighing "The Way Forward" versus "The Cost of Doing Nothing"](#)

01-16-2013

As has been widely reported, on Monday Gov. Patrick and Sec. Davey

Dear David,



The stage is now set for developing a comprehensive state-wide transportation finance plan in the first half of 2013. It helps when the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House have placed solving the transportation finance challenges of

Massachusetts as one of their top priorities. This type of political leadership is essential as the state tries to address a \$1 billion a year gap in order to sustain our transportation system.

The need to solve this problem was amplified by a [recent economic report](#) that ABC helped to prepare that estimated \$6.6-\$11 billion in operating and safety costs by 2030 if the state's transportation facilities are not maintained in a state of good repair.

MassDOT and Governor Patrick presented a ten year plan that requires \$13 billion in additional funding over that period. It's a thorough plan and an important step forward. As businesses and residents we need to work together to support legislation that will raise the necessary funding and continue to reform our transportation system. There is a high cost of doing nothing.

In the meantime we're pleased to share the latest updates on our work below, and we look forward to continuing with this portfolio of work as the year progresses.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Dimino
President & CEO

Transportation

released *The Way Forward: A 21st Century Transportation Plan* before a packed ballroom at UMass Boston. ABC was there for the announcement and now we've had a chance to digest the details of the plan, and what it means for transportation in Boston and statewide....»

[The Year Ahead](#)

01-02-2013

Happy new year! It's been nearly a year since ABC launched its first-ever blog...But I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight what we see as the major projects in our core areas of transportation, land development and the environment....»

[Taking a Cue from](#)

[London's Bus System](#)

12-19-2012

Think of the defining features of London, and public transportation likely looms large: The London Underground, the trademark black taxi cabs, the iconic red double-decker buses. More recently, London has been at the vanguard of transportation policy with its congestion pricing scheme....»

[A Full Glass: Insights on Energy Use Data for Commercial Real Estate](#)

12-10-2012

A Better City's Challenge for Sustainability works with a number of sustainably operated and LEED certified commercial buildings. As a member of ABC's sustainability team, I had the opportunity to attend this year's U.S. Green Building Council....»

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Transportation Economic Impact Study

ABC managed preparation of a report, "[The Cost of Doing Nothing: The Economic Case for Transportation Investment in Massachusetts](#)" on behalf of The Boston Foundation and the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership. The report illustrates the consequences of failing to invest in the statewide transportation infrastructure, and the resulting continuing deterioration of our aging facilities as well as missing opportunities to generate employment and income spent within the state. The findings were substantiated by state of the art modeling and examples in Western, Central, and Eastern Massachusetts. The study is intended to influence the discussion of increased funding for transportation that is now commencing.

Longfellow Bridge Reconstruction

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation opened sealed bids from two Design/Build Entities on Thursday, January 31 for completion of [reconstruction of the Longfellow Bridge](#). MassDOT has reviewed technical proposals submitted in December for completion of this work and evaluated the submittals. Award of the contract is expected at the February meeting of the MassDOT Board, with notice to proceed to be issued in March and construction beginning later in the spring for the three year long, multi-phase project. ABC reviewed requirements for traffic management in the Request for Proposals, and was able to introduce amendments by MassDOT to strengthen several critical requirements.

Infrastructure Survey

ABC is wrapping up work with AECOM completing a survey of infrastructure investment and its relationship to economic development in Eastern Massachusetts. The survey reviewed a range of infrastructure issues for surface transportation, water and sewer facilities, energy, and telecommunications facilities. Twenty five economic development areas were surveyed to assess key development opportunities and infrastructure needs, with a more detailed analysis of four representative case studies: East Cambridge/East Somerville, North Shore cities, Metrowest towns, and Franklin along route I-495. The report highlights the range of infrastructure needs and the impact of investment to address these needs on economic development.

Land Development

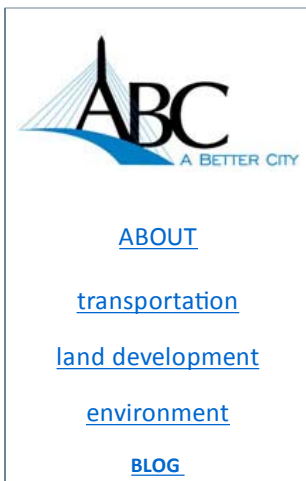
South Station Expansion

ABC's [Project Development Committee](#) participates in the planning and implementation of various transit and highway infrastructure projects located in the Commonwealth. Our most recent meeting addressed permitting and engineering for the expansion of South Station. The main goal of the project is to expand capacity at South Station to accommodate future commuter, intercity and high-speed rail. An ancillary benefit of the project will be streetscape improvements and real estate development opportunities around the station.

Environment

Challenge for Sustainability

January 2013 marks the start of the fourth year of the [Challenge for Sustainability](#). The program has grown to serve over 100 facilities, consisting of more than 30 million square feet of space and 70,000 employees. ABC staff has started to benchmark 2012 data, as well as develop action plans for each participant in the Challenge. On March 11th, ABC will host the [Annual Challenge Awards](#) to recognize the achievements of participants in 2012. In addition to awards recognizing each participants individual success, Challenge trophies will be presented to participants in the categories of, 'highest score',



'greatest energy reduction', 'peer award', and 'most improved'.

Join Now or [contact Megan Ramey](mailto:mramey@abettercity) (mramey@abettercity, 617-502-6247) for more information.

Green Ribbon Commission

A Better City and the [Commercial Real Estate Working Group](#) of the Green Ribbon Commission are launching a research pilot on energy metering and monitoring equipment that is aimed at identifying the benefits of [using energy data to understand energy use](#) and make informed decisions on energy efficiency and behavior change programs. As part of the project, ABC will install metering equipment at participating member facilities and work with participants to analyze the data and assist them with implementing efficiency improvements. The pilot will last one year in order to measure impacts on overall facility energy use.

Massachusetts ECO Awards

ABC TMA is working with MassCommute, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and MassRIDES to host the third annual [Excellence in Commuter Options \(ECO\) Awards](#). This year's awards ceremony will take place on March 28th at Fenway Park to celebrate the exemplary contributions Massachusetts employers have made within the last year to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging and supporting employees who use green, sustainable and healthy transportation options in the Commonwealth. Nomination forms and additional information will be sent out early next week. You can also check for updates on our [event website](#).

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