

A Better City Accomplishments 2006

A Better City had an incredibly successful 2006. We fully embraced our new mission after transitioning from the Artery Business Committee in May, helping achieve major progress on some of our new flagship projects - including the Urban Ring, Silver Line Phase III, and the City of Boston's Crossroads Initiative. We also maintained focus on the Central Artery, particularly after this summer's tragic ceiling collapse, and the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Reflecting on 2006, the staff of A Better City feels incredibly fortunate to work with the dedicated leaders on the ABC Board of Directors. Together, we have achieved the following key accomplishments:

- Made significant progress in moving the **Urban Ring** forward by helping secure \$2 million in funds for the next phase of the project's environmental work. These funds enabled the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) to hire a new consulting team, and greatly expand the Urban Ring's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). ABC staff assumed a leadership role on the CAC by being selected to chair the committee, and 7 ABC members also serve. The ABC's Urban Ring Institutional and Business Committee, chaired by Tom Glynn and Paul Levy, has also successfully prepared an Urban Ring position paper. This paper will be used to increase political support and momentum for the project in 2007.
- Built consensus for a preferred alignment and portal location for **Silver Line Phase III**, through the work of the Silver Line Phase III Business and Institutional Committee, chaired by Jim Rooney. The development of the Charles Street Modified portal variation helped resolve some difficult political and technical challenges that were greatly threatening the future of the project. The ABC committee was also instrumental in supporting the Federal New Starts Application of the project, which just received approval to re-enter preliminary engineering. Lastly, ABC partnered with the MBTA to identify engineering solutions and mitigation strategies to help relieve Emerson College's concerns. This work will continue through 2007.
- Helped the City of Boston get the **Crossroads Initiative** off the ground by forming several ABC committees dedicated to the project, including the Broad Street Abutters Group, co-chaired by Kyle Warwick and David Godbout, the Causeway Abutters Group, chaired by Chris Maher, and the Summer/Congress Abutters Group, chaired by Jim Rooney, Young Park, and John Matteson and Albert Price. Each of these committees is in different stages; however, all will be working towards the implementation of premium designs for the streets. We also briefed our utility members on the potential challenges and opportunities associated with this project for them.

- Conducted a **quality assurance** effort with the Wharf District Task Force and the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, assisted by Sasaki Associates, and continued to think strategically about the future of the entire **greenway**. Worked collaboratively with the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, House and Senate leadership, the Boston Museum Project, the New Center for Arts and Culture, and the Greater Boston YMCA to secure \$31 million for the covering of the ramps on Parcels 6, 12 and 18.
- Following the closure of the **I-90 Connector**, ABC worked with the City of Boston, the Turnpike Authority, MassHighway, and the MBTA to implement traffic mitigation strategies and a signage audit. ABC prepared information on traffic changes for distribution to ABC members, and participated in regular interagency coordination meetings. We also launched a public relations campaign entitled “Plan Ahead” geared towards preparing commuters for Post Labor Day traffic given the altered roadway network. Finally, we advocated for a comprehensive safety review and other measures following the tragedy in a letter to Governor Romney and an Op Ed in the Boston Business Journal.
- Worked with other partners to advocate for and secure \$57 million in the 2006 **Economic Stimulus Bill** for transportation improvements in the LMA, including Green Line and roadway improvements and a study and preliminary design of a multi-modal commuter rail and bus station and parking facility in North Allston. \$2.5 million was also secured for a study of the feasibility of the Silver Line’s “T under D,” \$250,000 for the Harbor Park Pavilion on Parcel 14 of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, and \$2.5 million for the construction of the Back Bay Connector.
- Hosted a **Transportation Finance** Panel, in partnership with the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, on October 3 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Over 120 people attended the event, and the panel effectively met its goals of highlighting the challenges facing transportation funding in the Commonwealth, and elevating the topic in public debate. Reinvigorated a “Transportation Investment Coalition” in collaboration with the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, The Massachusetts Business Roundtable, the Engineering Center, Construction Industries of Massachusetts and others, that successfully delayed the Turnpike Authority’s vote to eliminate tolls west of Route 128.
- Developed and implemented an organization-wide **re-branding** campaign for ABC’s transition from the Artery Business Committee to A Better City. Communicated transition to various audiences, particularly our partners, key elected and public officials, the general public and area foundations, which elevated the reputation and increased the visibility of the organization. Officially launched A Better City at an ABC Board Meeting on May 9, at which Mayor Thomas M. Menino addressed the Board and offered words of congratulations and support and hosted a transition luncheon for 165 guests at the Boston Harbor Hotel.

- Successfully launched **A Better City Transportation Management Association**, which included the design of a new logo and website for the organization. Celebrated the ABC TMA's 10th Anniversary, which honored the five, 10-year members of the TMA. Registered more than 1,150 employees into ABC TMA Commute Options programs, with participants preventing over 150,000 vehicle miles traveled resulting in the reduction of almost 9,000 pounds of pollutants.
- **TransitWorks** convened a roundtable of over 30 transportation professionals to address specific parking issues and innovative strategies for increasing use of Anderson Regional Transit Center. This effort generated over 30 actionable recommendations for increasing use of the parking lot, obtaining a commitment from the MBTA to implement at least 5 of the recommendations. TransitWorks also conducted its first statistically significant Annual Ridership Survey, drawing on success of their 2004 survey and other sources. Finally, TransitWorks contributed to MBTA website redesign as member of MBTA Website redesign committee and through rider research.

We look forward to another successful year in 2007 as we strive towards A Better City.

Best regards,

Richard A. Dimino
President & CEO