



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TRANSPORTATION • LAND DEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENT



## Kicking off the Young Leaders Committee

ABC kicked off 2010 with the launch of our Young Leaders Committee. Over 20 young professionals from ABC's membership convened at the offices of Nixon Peabody in January to discuss programming goals and review the Committee workplan.



Young Leaders 1st committee meeting

The meeting opened with comments from ABC President & CEO, Rick Dimino and included a spirited speech relaying the history of A Better City by ABC. Executive Committee member, Lawrence

*(Young Leaders continued on page 2)*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Young Leaders Committee
- Sustainability Program
- T5 Initiative
- 20 years of service
- Urban Ring update
- High Speed Rail
- Charles River Basin update
- ABC TMA

## QUICK LINKS

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For information about ABC news, email [dfennell@abettercity.org](mailto:dfennell@abettercity.org)



A BETTER CITY

## CHALLENGE for SUSTAINABILITY

Business and Institutional Leaders Working Toward a Sustainable City

## ABC Launches Challenge for Sustainability

A Better City has launched the Challenge for Sustainability pilot program which is designed to leverage the private sectors' ability to influence change and make Greater Boston a leader in sustainable building and transportation practices. The one-year pilot will challenge and recognize businesses, institutions and buildings to commit to meet established sustainability standards and practices that increase efficiencies, reduce resource consumption, decrease solid waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*(Sustainability Launch continued on page 2)*

*(Sustainability Launch continued...)*

We wish to acknowledge the following organizations and buildings for agreeing to participate in the program: 33 Broad Street, Au Bon Pain, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Hines (222 Berkeley), John Hancock/Manulife (601 Congress, 200 Berkeley, 197 Clarendon), Nutter McClennen & Fish, TD Bank Garden, TRO Jung|Brannen, Tsoi Kobus & Associates, and WilmerHale. As participants in the Challenge, these organizations have agreed to work towards the goals and objectives of the program, while receiving a range of value added services and assistance from A Better City. Contact David Straus by phone (617-502-6246) or email ([dstraus@abettercity.org](mailto:dstraus@abettercity.org)) if interested in further information about the Challenge for Sustainability Program. .

*(Young Leaders continued...)*

DiCara, who challenged meeting attendants to be professionally and civically invested in transforming Boston into a vibrant city.

The Young Leaders Committee is comprised of younger professionals (age 25-35) from ABC member companies who are hand selected by the organization's Board and Associates. This committee is co-chaired by Yanni Tspis of Colliers Meredith & Grew, and Matt Zahler, ABC's Director of Policy & Development. Through Yanni and Matt's leadership, the Young Leaders Committee will foster ABC's growth with an infusion of energy and innovative ideas. The goals of the committee include:

- Increasing the visibility and image of ABC among the next generation of civic and business leaders; encourage their participation in organization events and work
- Enhancing ABC's general profile and visibility in the city by exposing ABC's activities and initiatives to new markets and through new media;
- Cultivating future board members, corporate members, and "patrons" or "customers" for ABC's policy agendas

For further information on the Young Leaders Committee, please contact Matt Zahler ([mzahler@abettercity.org](mailto:mzahler@abettercity.org)) or be in touch with Yanni Tspis ([Yanni.tsipis@colliersmq.com](mailto:Yanni.tsipis@colliersmq.com)).

## **ABC Invited to Participate in T5 Initiative**

ABC is pleased to announce ABC President & CEO, Rick Dimino, has been asked by Governor Deval Patrick and Mayor Thomas Menino to join the Convention Partnership as part of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority's T5 initiative. T5 is a long-term strategic initiative intended to make Massachusetts and Boston more competitive in the convention industry; it will increase economic benefits for the region, stimulate more economic development, and create more jobs.

The Convention Partnership will drive the public dialogue on the potential expansion of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and conclude with a report of their findings in December 2010. Rick is excited about the opportunity to contribute insights and professional expertise related to transportation, infrastructure, and planning issues on behalf of A Better City's membership.



### Tom Nally Celebrates 20 Years of Service!

ABC Planning Director, Tom Nally, recently celebrated an anniversary – 20 years on the job! Tom started with the Artery Business Committee in 1989 as one of the organization's very first employees. Tom's dedication to planning is well known to his co-workers & colleagues. He has worked on every aspect of ABC's involvement with the Central Artery/Tunnel Project and is a major contributor to both the organization and the region. These days, Tom's work at A Better City has him focusing on projects such as the Urban Ring, the Charles River Basin and the Rose Kennedy Greenway. We salute Tom and wish him all the best!

### Urban Ring Update

The Urban Ring project has received renewed attention since former Transportation Secretary, James Aloisi, sent a letter to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) seeking to withdraw the June 30, 2009 Notice of Project Change. The withdrawal comes as a result of the evolving conditions for the project. A subsequent attempt to submit a substitute Notice of Project Change (NPC) was rejected by MEPA when the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Secretary, Ian Bowles, requested the new Transportation Secretary, Jeffrey Mullan, to submit a letter describing the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) intentions regarding the project.

ABC contributed towards this effort by convening meetings between ABC members, MASCO, the Compact Communities, the Urban Ring Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Secretary Mullan to discuss the content of the Secretary's letter.

In Secretary Mullan's letter to MEPA, he outlined a three part strategy for proceeding with the Urban Ring project:

1. Implement early action Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service consistent with the Nov. 2008 environmental document
2. Pursue other BRT elements on other routes in the corridor
3. Continue planning, analysis, and civic engagement for the full project as an integrated system.

While advocates for the project did not receive support for all recommendations, the next step for the project will be to prepare a work plan with the Urban Ring CAC, Compact Communities, and MassDOT to define how work on the project will proceed. Any outstanding issues such as how to protect the right of way will be addressed in that work plan.





## UPDATES FROM THE FIELD...

### High Speed Rail

On February 1st, ABC staff attended the Business Alliance for Northeast Mobility conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The meeting focused on the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) recent announcement to begin construction on [high-speed rail corridors](#). Moving forward, ABC will continue to collaborate with the Northeast Business Alliance and advocate for improved Amtrak service throughout the region. To learn more about how the investments will be distributed, please view this [synopsis](#) on the FRA's funding.



Photo courtesy of Boston.com

### Charles River Basin Projects

ABC's Charles River Basin Working Group recently met to review ongoing and future work for the bridges located within the Basin. The Group is pleased to report that construction on the Boston University Bridge and the two Craigie Bridges is well underway. While initial traffic management problems on the Boston University Bridge have decreased, ABC continues to advocate for a more comprehensive management plan. In addition, design work has begun for the Lars Anderson Memorial Bridge near Harvard Square and the Western Avenue and River Street Bridges. Initial construction on the Longfellow Bridge is scheduled for early 2010; with more extensive work on the Longfellow slated to be after the completion of the Craigie Drawbridge. The Working Group will review a new traffic model in early 2010 which will support a robust traffic management strategy for all of the Charles River Basin projects.



Things continue to remain busy for A Better City Transportation Management Association. With the beginning of the new year, the TMA outlined a calendar of events that will highlight a new project or commuter program each month. One of the major events that the TMA has begun planning for is the MassCommuter Challenge. The Challenge is a friendly competition between Massachusetts businesses, municipalities, institutions, and schools that encourages commuters to incorporate bicycling into trips to work, running errands and for social purposes. As we transition into Spring, expect to hear more about the MassCommuter Challenge and Bay State Bike Week (May 17<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup>)!

### Upcoming Meetings

*The following meetings are open to A Better City and A Better City TMA members. For information about membership please contact ABC Director of Policy and Development, Matthieu Zahler by phone (617-502-6244) or email (mzahler@abettercity.org).*

- **Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 24th**
- **Transportation & Construction Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 10th**
- **Transportation Finance & Policy Committee: Thursday, March 18th**
- **Young Leaders Committee: Wednesday, March 31st**
- **Greenway Abutters Meeting: Wednesday, April 7th**