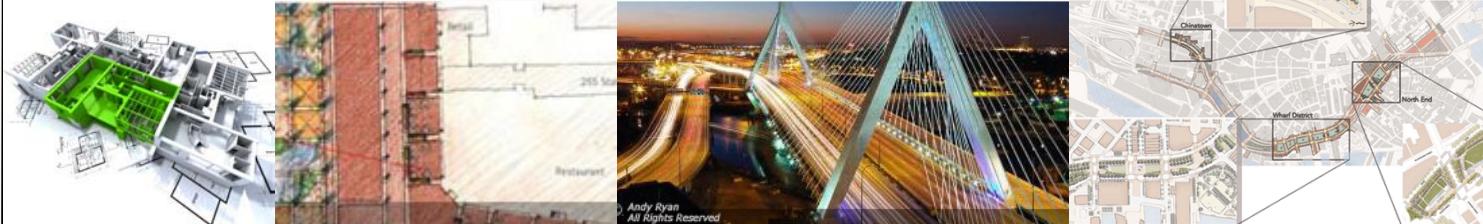




QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TRANSPORTATION • LAND DEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENT



A Better City Helps Spark the City of Boston's Climate Revolution

Following a year-long public process, Boston's Climate Action Leadership Committee presented Mayor Thomas Menino with a set of wide-ranging recommendations aimed at significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the risks of climate change in Boston. The consensus report entitled [Sparking the Climate Revolution](#) calls for reducing Boston's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions 25% by 2020 and incorporating the potential effects of climate change in all planning and review of public and private projects.

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QUICK LINKS

[ABC Board of Directors](#)
[ABC Staff Directory](#)

For information about ABC news, email
dfennell@abettercity.org

Charles River Basin Bridge Reconstruction Update

The ABC Transportation and Construction Committee and the Charles River Basin Working Group have been meeting regularly with MassDOT representatives to review ongoing work on the Boston University Bridge and the Craigie Bridges on the Charles River Dam, as well as the planning for the overall program of bridge reconstruction in the Charles River Basin funded by the state's Accelerated Bridge Program.



Photo courtesy of Boston.com

The latest milestone in the overall program is the development and application of a new traffic model which supports a more robust and interactive comprehensive traffic management plan for all projects. In the most recent meetings, the committees have spent time with officials from MassDOT and their consultants to gain a better understanding of the model, its capabilities, and the further development of the sequencing strategy completing the bridge program in the Basin.

(ABC Sparks City's Climate Revolution continued...)

A Better City President & CEO, Rick Dimino, was selected by the Mayor to serve on the Leadership Committee to provide guidance on transportation and building impacts and recommendations related to the business and institutional community. Key actions recommended in the plan include:

- Expand Renew Boston and utility efficiency programs
- Require energy efficiency upgrades at time of sale through retrofit ordinances
- Require publicly accessible energy efficiency ratings for buildings
- Raise energy standards for building construction above state base
- Expand efforts to promote greater use of biking, walking, ridesharing, and public transit

We encourage you to view a [summary](#) of the report and to visit [the City's Climate: Change website](#) where you can view the complete report, an appendix on the community workshops, and a spreadsheet containing calculations of GHG reductions and benefits. Please contact David Straus by phone (617-502-6246) or email (dstraus@abettercity.org) if you would like further information on the Boston climate action plan.



A BETTER CITY
**CHALLENGE for
SUSTAINABILITY**
*Business and Institutional Leaders
Working Toward a Sustainable City*

*Updates from the
Sustainability
front*

ABC's year-long pilot of the Challenge for Sustainability is nearing its mid-point, and much has been accomplished. Eighteen facilities from ABC members (33 Broad Street, Au Bon Pain, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Hines, John Hancock/Manulife, Nutter McCennen & Fish, TD Bank Garden, TRO JungBrannen, Tsoi Kobus & Associates, and WilmerHale) completed and submitted the Challenge for Sustainability Scorecard. ABC and its consultants analyzed the scorecards and conducted one-on-one meetings with each participant to develop a Sustainability Report summarizing the participant's current activities and offering of recommendations that participants will try to implement over the course of the year to increase their Sustainability Score by an average of 10% for all participants. Over the next few months, ABC will be launching a series of educational workshops and trainings to assist members in implementing their recommendations.

In March, ABC was awarded a \$105,000 grant from the Barr Foundation to assist in our efforts to launch and expand the Challenge for Sustainability. The funding will enable ABC to hire a full-time Sustainability Programs Manager to lead ABC's educational efforts and member assistance activities. With these funds ABC will also partner with the Environmental Defense Fund to place MBA interns at three member sites to identify and analyze potential economic benefits of implementing efficiency improvements in their buildings.

ABC members interested in hosting an intern should contact David Straus, 617-502-6246 for additional information on the program.

Red Line/Blue Line Connector



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the proposed connection between the MBTA Red Line and the Blue Line at the Charles MGH Station. Completing the design for this project by December 31, 2011 is a commitment of the State Implementation Plan associated with air quality mitigation of the Central Artery/Tunnel project. The preferred alternative closes the Bowdoin MBTA Station and extends the Blue Line tunnel using a tunnel boring machine (TBM) under Cambridge Street from the Government Center Station to the Charles MGH Station. The construction plan attempts to minimize surface disruption by limiting cut and cover construction to the two ends of the tunnel where depth of the work below the surface is too shallow for the TBM to operate.

Goals for the project include improving air quality, increasing public transportation ridership and enhancing system capacity. The project is intended to improve mobility and access for residents of East Boston, North Shore communities, Cambridge, and communities northwest of Boston. It is also intended to improve access to and from Massachusetts General Hospital and other medical facilities located nearby. ABC is a member of the advisory committee which has been meeting for over one year to review the design approach and progress on development of a construction strategy. For further information about the project, please visit: www.mass.gov/massdot/redblue.



Breaking ground for new Boston Harbor Pavilion

On Monday, May 3rd, ground was officially broken for the new Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion that will be constructed this summer on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. In attendance for the ground breaking were (*from left to right*), Mayor Thomas Menino, Congressman Michael Capuano, Assistant Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs David Cash, National Park Service Superintendent Bruce Jacobson, and Boston Harbor Island Alliance Chair Joel Reck. A Better City is excited for the arrival of the Pavilion as it will serve as a gateway to the Boston Harbor Island national park, offering visitors park information and ferry tickets.

ABC Welcomes Newest Staff Member

ABC is pleased to welcome Richard Parr as the organization's new Director of Policy & Development. Rich is taking over for Matt Zahler, who has moved on to a position with Trinity Financial. Rich comes to A Better City from WGBH, where he spent three years at the PBS public affairs documentary series, *Frontline*. As a Web content producer there, he worked on the companion sites for shows on a wide range of policy issues. Prior to *Frontline*, Rich was the paralegal for the PBS science series *Nova*, also produced at WGBH. Before that, he worked at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

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Construction Underway on Boston's Crossroads Initiative

As of Wednesday, May 5th, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has begun construction on the [Crossroads Initiative](#), the city's plan to improve the major streets leading to the Rose Kennedy Greenway. Construction will be underway throughout May between the hours of 7:00am through 3:30pm. The City is working to ensure that building access, vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be maintained at all times during phased construction. Questions regarding the project can be directed towards BRA Senior Manager, Peter Gori, by phone (617-918-4451). For 24 hour, 7 days a week emergency assistance, call 617-635-4500.

(ABC welcomes new staffer...)

Rich will be responsible for several of ABC's committees including South Boston Stakeholders, Project Development, Young Leaders, Transportation Finance and Policy, and the Real Estate and Land Development Forum. He'll also be overseeing ABC's development plans and helping to grow the organization's membership basis. Welcome to the team Rich!



May is National Bike month, and A Better City Transportation Management Association (ABC TMA) celebrated by organizing (*in partnership with the TMAs that comprise [MassCommute](#)*) [Bay State Bike Week's](#) signature event, the [MassCommuter Challenge](#). During Bay State Bike Week, May 17th-21st, 3,741 Massachusetts residents pledged 222,146 miles that they would bike for trips to work, utilitarian travel and social activities. In addition, 238 Massachusetts businesses and colleges/ universities registered as participating workplace and campus teams. All participants in the Challenge are invited to attend the wrap up party, the [Bike Bash!](#), which will be hosted at Flat Top Johnny's in Kendall Square on Wednesday, May 26th. The event presents the opportunity to acknowledge the winning team's contributions and host a prize drawing for bicycle oriented gear!

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 Richard Parr by phone (617-502-6244) or email (rparr@abettercity.org).

- **Transportation Finance & Policy Committee, May 27th**
- **Greenway Abutters Committee, June 2nd**
- **Urban Ring Institutional & Business Committee, June 24th**
- **Transportation and Construction Committee, July 7th**