



Massachusetts
LIFE SCIENCES
Collaborative

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Leaders Say Transportation Investment Key to Life Sciences Success

Panel discussion outlines the critical relationship between transportation investment and the future economic competitiveness of Metropolitan Boston's Life Sciences Cluster

Boston, MA – (October 31, 2007) – Today, the City of Boston, State officials, and a host of prominent business and institutional leaders engaged in a public discussion on the importance of transportation infrastructure investment to sustaining the competitive edge of the Massachusetts life sciences cluster. This industry depends on connectivity to be successful, facilitated by strategic operational changes, new transportation policies and planning efforts, and capital investments.

In the opening remarks of a panel discussion hosted by A Better City and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative, Mayor Thomas M. Menino stressed that connectivity within the life sciences cluster also plays a crucial role in connecting residents to employment opportunities.

"The life sciences sector is very important to our city," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "The competitive advantages that Boston provides that sector can be further strengthened through greater investment in both transportation infrastructure and workforce development programs. That infrastructure and those programs can help all Boston residents access a growing field of good jobs and deepen the local talent pool for life science employers."

The panel discussion featured a group of prominent local leaders who expounded on various aspects of how transportation investment can bolster the economic competitiveness of the region. Dr. Steven Hyman, Provost of Harvard University, used a Harvard case study to illustrate why connectivity is important to the life sciences industry. Jeffrey Lockwood, Executive Director of Communications for Novartis, explained how transportation factors into the decision making process for life sciences organizations who are hoping to invest or expand in the state. Mark Bamforth, Genzyme Senior Vice President of Corporate Operations and Pharmaceuticals, demonstrated how other "competitor" cities have incorporated transportation investment as part of their life sciences economic development efforts. And finally, State Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Daniel O'Connell spoke on what steps the state is taking to ensure the economic competitiveness of the life sciences industry through transportation investments.

The discussion, moderated by Richard A. Dimino, President & CEO of A Better City, illuminated the various key components of a study released today by A Better City that identifies the current competitive advantages of and challenges to Metropolitan Boston's life sciences cluster, as well as case studies of key competitor cities in the United States.

"Transportation investment is an essential building block for sustaining a thriving and competitive life sciences sector, and is an incredibly important economic development tool," said Mr. Dimino. "Our study revealed an unprecedented level of transportation infrastructure investment going on in some of the Boston area's strongest competitors – other regions around the country are heavily investing in infrastructure they know will encourage life sciences development. We must learn from these places and implement a robust strategy to keep the Boston area competitive. Now is not the time to sit on our hands."

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The Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative co-hosted the discussion in an effort to achieve an open dialogue on how to work together to make Massachusetts more competitive through strategic transportation investment.

“We are pleased to co-host this important discussion about the life sciences super cluster,” said Mitchell Adams, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. “The life sciences sector is the heart and lung machine of the Massachusetts economy. The Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative has identified transportation as a key priority for the growth and development of life sciences in our region, and the findings from this report provide critical information to address the larger life sciences transportation opportunity within the Commonwealth.”

About A Better City

A Better City (ABC) advances infrastructure investments and projects that are vital to sustaining and growing the Boston area's economy and ensuring that Boston remains one of the most dynamic and unique cities in the world. Comprised of leaders from business and major institutions, the ABC is focused on solving problems and developing strategies that ensure the continuity and progress of significant transportation, land development, and public realm projects. A Better City is built on the foundation of over fifteen years of success as the Artery Business Committee, widely credited with achieving consensus and keeping Boston open for business during the Central Artery/Tunnel project, the largest and most complex urban infrastructure project ever undertaken in the United States.

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative (LSC) is a unique cross-sector coalition of life sciences leaders in academia, industry and government. This partnership of life sciences stakeholders has joined together in a commitment to assist the Commonwealth in enhancing its preeminent position in the research, development and commercialization of products that address critical needs in health care and treatment of disease, and in doing so, expand economic opportunities for the citizens of the state. The mission of the LSC is to sustain productive dialogue among stakeholders and to reach consensus with government policy-makers on a comprehensive strategy to expand the life sciences super cluster in Massachusetts. The importance and need for this collaboration has been acknowledged and is underscored by the strong financial support provided by The Boston Foundation, the University of Massachusetts, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute.

About the report

Commissioned by A Better City, *Connecting with Our Economic Future: A Transportation Investment Strategy for the Life Sciences Cluster* examines the role of transportation infrastructure in creating stronger and better connections among the institutions and businesses in the life sciences sector - connections that can provide a critical competitive advantage to the life sciences cluster. Stephanie Pollack, Senior Research Associate with the Northeastern University Center for Urban Policy and Research (CURP), served as principal researcher and co-author of the study. This study was made possible by the generous support of The Boston Foundation, with additional support from Harvard University, MASCO, and Partners HealthCare.

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