



Contact: Jessica Conaway
Phone: 617.557.7342

ARTERY BUSINESS COMMITTEE TRANSITIONS TO A BETTER CITY

Marks the Near Completion of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project by Refocusing Its Mission

Boston, MA – (May 9, 2006) – At its Board Meeting today, the Artery Business Committee unanimously voted to adopt a new name and mission for the organization. The newly renamed organization, A Better City, will capitalize on its Central Artery related expertise and broaden its focus to advance other infrastructure projects vital to sustaining and growing the Boston area’s economy. A Better City will focus on solving problems and developing strategies that ensure the continuity and progress of significant transportation, land development and public realm projects.

“The Artery Business Committee made tremendous contributions to the success of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project in all areas – forging consensus on design issues, providing strategic thinking and expertise on financing, and monitoring construction impacts,” said John E. Drew, Chairman. “With a proven track record on the most complex urban infrastructure project ever undertaken in the US, the business community recognized that it would be a lost opportunity if we were to disband the organization rather than build on its success to focus on other important projects in Greater Boston. The new mission is a logical outgrowth of ABC’s expertise and accomplishments.”

History

The Artery Business Committee, ABC, was formed in 1989 in recognition of the mutual interest among major Boston area businesses to focus corporate support and help manage the ongoing impact of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, the Big Dig. Led by Norman Leventhal of Beacon Capital Partners LLC, an assembly of businesses formed the ABC as a nonprofit membership organization to help manage the construction implications of the project while providing the necessary political support to help get the project built. Its mission has been to keep the City of Boston “open for business” while building consensus among major Central Artery abutters regarding design and construction of the project.

Today, as the Central Artery project nears completion, the ABC’s Board of Directors includes 85 leaders of Boston’s major businesses and institutions. The organization has been characterized both by a hands-on role in problem solving and an ability to identify opportunities related to the enormous construction project. It is also characterized by the active participation of CEOs and senior management of Boston’s major businesses and institutions.

The Future: A Better City

“The repositioning of the Artery Business Committee as A Better City will help build off of the investments of the new Central Highway System and the Rose Kennedy

Greenway,” said Richard Dimino, President and CEO of A Better City. “We will focus on realizing the full potential of these investments, while looking beyond the Big Dig to other transportation, land development and public realm projects that enhance Boston’s future competitive advantage.”

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who served as guest speaker at A Better City’s first board meeting, commented, “This represents just the type of active corporate engagement that is essential to our city’s future. We have seen changes in our corporate landscape, with major companies merging or being purchased by out-of-town corporations. ABC fosters corporate involvement and provides a framework to channel the business community’s participation to areas where we need their expertise and support. And the growing involvement of our leading non-profit institutions in the ABC represents a great vehicle to acknowledge their importance in our city’s economy and bring them to the table on issues that matter most to our shared success in the future.”

A Better City’s Projects

The near completion of the construction of the Central Artery project enables ABC to broaden its focus both geographically and substantively to other parts of the city, while continuing to ensure that completion of the Big Dig and associated issues continue to receive the business community’s support. Other projects that ABC will focus on in its new era include:

- ❑ The Rose Kennedy Greenway
- ❑ Crossroads Initiative
- ❑ Silver Line Phase III
- ❑ Urban Ring
- ❑ Longwood/Kenmore/Fenway area transportation access improvements
- ❑ South Boston Growth and Development

###