

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Secured support from the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) and Congressman Michael Capuano for inclusion of the Urban Ring and the design of Silver Line Phase III as High Priority Projects requested in the Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization.
- Obtained support and recognition from MEPA for ABC's comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/DEIS) urging EOT to identify early actions that can be undertaken to advance the Urban Ring project more rapidly. The MEPA Certificate requires a Notice of Project Change that will define early actions and provide an overall schedule and structure for the project.
- Continued ABC's leadership and collaboration with Our Transportation Future (OTF) with a focus on influencing the Transportation Reform Conference Committee (Senate Bill 2024 and House Bill 4047) and the Budget Conference Committee (Senate Bill 2060 and House Bill 4041) through technical reports, programming, and media coverage.
- Completed the study "Shoring up Massachusetts' Economy through Transportation Investment: A Review of Potential New Funding Sources for Transportation" which was presented at a panel discussion titled, "Moving the Economy Forward through Transportation Investment" in partnership with the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University.
- Advocated for and then worked with the Turnpike Authority and the Conservancy to have 23 dead or ailing Greenway trees replaced along Purchase Street, Atlantic Avenue, Dewey Square, and Chinatown.
- Working with ABC's Executive Committee, developed an ABC position paper on transportation finance. Worked with a statewide business coalition to develop a business community transportation white paper.
- ABC President & CEO Rick Dimino was invited to represent the business and institutional community on the newly established Mayor's Climate Task Force, which will lead the development of the City of Boston's new Climate Action Plan.
- The ABC Transportation Management Association (ABC TMA) worked to realize the prevention of over 74,500 vehicle miles traveled, 13,500 car free days; resulting in the reduction of over 68,000 pounds of carbon during this period.
- ABC received approval of its' \$50,000 grant request to The Boston Foundation to provide funding for the creation of the Sustainability Leadership Initiative. The Initiative will challenge and recognize businesses, institutions, and buildings that commit to meet established sustainability standards and practices that increase efficiencies, reduce resource consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions. ABC has hired ERG to assist in the development of the program, which will expand upon existing federal and local programs from around the country.
- Conducted and finished the 2008 Ridership Survey and presented key findings to the General Manager of the MBTA and other key staff. The study consisted of a random, telephone survey of 501 MBTA passengers which were collected over a two-week period.

## **PLANNING, POLICY & DEVELOPMENT**

### **URBAN RING**

- Secured support from the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) and Congressman Michael Capuano for inclusion of the Urban Ring as a High Priority Project request in the federal surface transportation reauthorization.
- Obtained support and recognition from MEPA for ABC's comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/DEIS) urging EOT to identify early actions that can be undertaken to advance the Urban Ring project more rapidly. The MEPA Certificate requires a Notice of Project Change that will define early actions and provide an overall schedule and structure for the project.
- Prepared a "road map" for the use of available state funding to advance a set of early actions for the Urban Ring project that include improved bus service, design and construction of specific components that can be implemented in the near term, and advanced conceptual design for project elements that will be implemented over the longer term.
- Facilitated the active engagement of ABC members and other stakeholders that have brought resources and expertise to the table to advance the Urban Ring project.
- Implemented elements of the Urban Ring Institutional and Business Committee work program, and held committee meetings on January 6 and March 4 to review project's progress, discuss comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/DEIS), reviewed ABC recommendations for Urban Ring early actions and enhanced bus service that are part of the "Road Map" for implementation of the project.
- Prepared the CAC testimony for the January 6, 2009 Public hearing and comment letter on the RDEIR/DEIS with Vice Chair Richard Garver of the BRA.
- Prepared ABC comments on the RDEIR/DEIS for the January 6, 2009 public hearing and the comment letter submitted to MEPA and the Federal Transit Administration in February 2009.
- Guided the work of the ABC Urban Ring Technical Subcommittee which met in January, March, and June to discuss detailed comments on the RDEIR/DEIS and ABC's approach to recommended early actions to be included in the June 2009 Notice of Project Change.
- Chaired the Urban Ring Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the CAC's Alternatives Subcommittee in the preparation of comments on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/DEIS) and on preparation of the June 2009 Notice of Project Change.
- Worked with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to advance an economic study for the Urban Ring project.

### **SILVER LINE PHASE III**

- Secured support from the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) and Congressman Michael Capuano for inclusion of the Silver Line Phase III design as a High Priority Project request in the federal surface transportation reauthorization.
- ABC staff was briefed by Boston Transportation Commissioner Tinlin and Planning Director Gupta in advance of announcing the proposed Silver Line service extension between Mattapan and South Station.

## **TRANSPORTATION FINANCE IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

- Continued ABC's leadership and collaboration with Our Transportation Future with a focus on influencing the Transportation Reform Conference Committee (Senate Bill 2024 and House Bill 4047) and the Budget Conference Committee (Senate Bill 2060 and House Bill 4041) through technical reports, programming, and media coverage.
- Completed the study "Shoring up Massachusetts' Economy through Transportation Investment: A Review of Potential New Funding Sources for Transportation".
- Working with ABC's Executive Committee, developed an ABC position paper on transportation finance. ABC also developed a transportation white paper through collaborative efforts with a statewide business coalition.
- Met with various legislators to advocate for transportation policy reform and revenue options which will assure the Commonwealth will be able to support a long-term transit system.
- Offered input and support as Congressman Capuano and Lynch identified High Priority Projects to be included in the surface transportation reauthorization requests for many Boston infrastructure projects including: Silver Line, Urban Ring, Crossroads and many others.
- Hosted Jeffrey Mullan at the Transportation Finance and Political Committee meeting where he delivered an update on the current legislative strategy of the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT).
- Hosted Jeffrey Simon, Director of Infrastructure Investment for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to inform Board members about how this project relates to transportation and development.

## **ROSE KENNEDY GREENWAY**

- Worked collaboratively with Turnpike Authority and the Conservancy to have 23 dead or ailing Greenway trees replaced along Purchase Street, Atlantic Avenue, Dewey Square, and Chinatown.
- Convened meetings of the Greenway Abutters Committee on February 4, April 1, and June 3, 2009 to participate in the planning for programming and maintenance of the Greenway. Throughout the process, ABC worked closely with the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, City of Boston, and the Conservancy reviewing the status of development proposals and ramp parcels.
- Continued review of the design and implementation of the Harbor Park Pavilion with the Boston Harbor Island Alliance and the National Park Service.
- Resumed regular site visits and conditions reports of the Greenway maintenance and operations program in April 2009. Made recommendations for actions that have been implemented to improve park operations and address specific areas of concern.
- Worked with the Turnpike Authority and Boston Transportation Department (BTD) in the development and monitoring of implementations for the 2008-2009 Snow Removal Plan along the Greenway and adjacent sidewalks.
- Co-Sponsored the Greenway's April 22, spring clean-up and provided volunteer support.
- Co-Sponsored round table discussions about funding with the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy.

- Worked closely with representatives of Harbor Towers and Rowes Wharf residents in the Wharf District Task Force that coordinates the interests of these groups with that of the business community for planning in the Wharf District.
- Participated in the Greenway District Planning Study that builds on recommendation of the ABC Edges Studies to devise methods for actively connecting the greenway with adjacent development.
- Appointed to serve on the Harbor Garage Project Impact Advisory Group to advise the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) on the perceived impacts and potential mitigation for the project.
- Provided written and verbal comments, planning expertise, and advocacy as an active member of the Metropolitan Highway System Advisory Board in its review of development proposals and agreements.

### **TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION**

- The ABC Transportation and Construction Committee met on January 7, March 4, and May 6 to continue advancing improved coordination among transportation projects planned for the Charles River Basin including the B.U. Bridge, Craigie Bridges, Longfellow Bridge rehabilitation and the Storrow Drive Tunnel project.
- Met with Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) officials to advocate for proactive transportation management, mitigation, and project coordination measures in the Charles River Basin.
- Served on the Red Line/Blue Line Working Group to provide local input and perspective on the proposed alternatives, evaluation criteria and construction methods as they are developed.

### **CROSSROADS INITIATIVE**

- Continued the discussion of construction mitigation for the Broad Street work in a meeting with BRA Project Manager Peter Gori and the project's engineers.
- Working with the City of Boston, their consulting engineers, and member utilities as the City put out its first round of bids for Broad Street.

### **SOUTH BOSTON STAKEHOLDERS**

- Kairos Shen delivered an update to the group as to where it stood in relation to the 1999 South Boston Waterfront Plan and commended the group on the tremendous progress that has been made developing South Boston since 1999.
- Hosted Clinton Bench from the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT); Clinton offered the group an update on the proposed Silver Line Service enhancements which are funded by Federal Stimulus dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## **MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, A Better City partnered with The Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University to host a report release and panel discussion titled, “Moving the Economy Forward through Transportation Investment”. The Marketing and Communication unit worked with members of the Our Transportation Future Coalition to manage event organization and promotions. We are pleased to report that over 100 representatives from the business community, transportation planning industry and policy sector were in attendance.
- During February, the Marketing and Communication unit managed a project to distribute ABC’s Position Paper on transportation finance and our Urban Ring and Silver Line Phase III brochures. Packages were delivered to elected officials in both the State House and Senate as well as the Secretary of Transportation and state officials at MassHighway and the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT).
- The Marketing and Communication unit distributed two, quarterly newsletters since January. The first newsletter was released in February and highlighted ABC’s continued effort to move discussions about transportation finance forward to secure the State’s economy and provide long term financial stability for our transportation system. The second newsletter was distributed in May and featured ABC’s report release of “Moving Our Transportation Future Forward through Transportation Investment”.
- As part of our member service, the Marketing and Communication Unit continues to maintain timely correspondence to members of the Board and Associates on current news issues related to transportation and development as well as travel advisories for public transit, roads and bridges.
- A Better City continues to advance its transportation agenda within the media. The organization was featured in many Boston Globe articles such as the February 10, Op-Ed “A transportation roadmap for the state”, and May 4 article, “Transit woes bad for business, executives say”.

## **A BETTER CITY TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

- The ABC TMA worked to realize the prevention of over 74,500 vehicle miles traveled, 13,500 car free days; resulting in the reduction of over 68,000 pounds of carbon during this period.
- During the month of March the TMA conducted a promotion to reward E/TTCs for registering their employees and tenants in the Guaranteed Ride Home program, offering \$5 for every 10 new registrants. More than 300 employees registered during the month.
- The TMA has partnered with the City of Boston to submit a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant to the Boston MPO. The grant request is to develop a website to provide up to date and/ or live information on current transportation options, traffic, and parking availability in the city. A portion of the site will be dedicated to promoting the programs and services provided by TMAs and the benefits of membership.
- The TMA helped lead the planning efforts for Bay State Bike Week and the MassCommuter Challenge. Nearly 3,000 employees participated in the MassCommuter Challenge including more than 250 from ABC TMA. Mass General Hospital won the Challenge for their size category of 5,000+ employees.

- The TMA hosted five bike breakfasts during Bay State Bike Week. Events were held at Charles River Plaza, John Hancock, 75 Arlington/10 St. James, Prudential Center, and Mass General Hospital. Events include free breakfast and tune-ups for cyclists. More than 220 cyclists attend the events.
- The TMA participated in the ACT Legislative Summit in Washington, DC in April and held meetings with staff of Congressman Capuano, Neal, and Markey, as well as, Senators Kerry and Kennedy to build awareness of the TMA and encourage making the transportation fringe benefit permanent at \$230/year or more.
- During the months of April and May the TMA conducted a Spring Promotion for the Workout to Work program, entering all new registrants in a drawing for five \$25.00 REI gift card. More than 170 employees registered to participate in the program during the promotion.
- Guaranteed Ride Home Program: Registered 598 new participants into the program for a total of 2,177 active registrants.
- Bicycling & Walking: Registered 64 new participants into the Workout to Work program for a total of 1,032 registrants. In this time period, participants prevented nearly 58,000 vehicle miles and have had over 13,000 car free days.
- Ridematching: The TMA continues to investigate new ridematching software and programs.
- Vanpooling: Registered one new participant in the program. The two current participants in the existing vanpool subsidy program prevented over 2,600 vehicle miles traveled and had 86 car free days.
- Carpooling: Registered 13 new participants in 5 new carpools for a total of 13 active carpools with 29 riders in the Fill 'er Up Carpool Subsidy Program. Participants have prevented over 11,500 vehicle miles traveled.
- Water Transportation & Express Buses: Registered four new participants in the Express Yourself program. There were eight active participants during this period, which have prevented over 2,800 vehicle miles traveled.
- The TMA held 15 events at Pearson Education, State Street, Charles River Plaza, John Hancock (2), Mullen (2), MGH (3), Prudential Center (2), WilmerHale, 226 Causeway Street, 75 Arlington Street, and 10 St. James Avenue. Nearly 1,500 employees have attended ABC TMA events during the year.

## **SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE**

- ABC received approval of its grant request of \$50,000 to The Boston Foundation to provide funding for the creation of the Sustainability Leadership Initiative, which will challenge and recognize businesses, institutions, and buildings that commit to meet established sustainability standards and practices that increase efficiencies, reduce resource consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions. ABC has hired ERG to assist in the development of the program, which will expand upon existing federal and local program from around the country.

- ABC President & CEO Rick Dimino was invited to represent the business and institutional community on the newly established Mayor's Climate Task Force, which will lead the development of the City of Boston's new Climate Action Plan.
- On March 26, ABC hosted, "Sustainability & Mobility: Fleets, Feet, and Fuels". The workshop featured presentations on incorporating transportation options and programs into facilities and worksites; state and federal funding programs; and private sector initiatives. More than 50 people attended the three hour workshop, which received positive reviews on participant surveys.
- ABC hosted Sustainability Showcase events at the Seaport Hotel in February and at the Prudential Center in April. The Showcase events provide a presentation and tour of a facility's sustainability practices. More than 50 people attended these two events.

## **TRANSITWORKS**

### **2008 RIDERSHIP SURVEY**

Conducted and finished the 2008 Ridership Survey and presented key findings to the General Manager of the MBTA and other key staff. The study consisted of a random, telephone survey of 501 MBTA passengers which were collected over a two-week period.

### **RED LINE HIGH CAPACITY CAR PILOT STUDY**

Conducted and finished the Red Line High Capacity Car Survey after which we prepared an extensive written report, which was distributed to the General Manager and other key staff. The evaluation collected rider experiences and satisfaction measures from 1,937 users of the pilot transit vehicle.

### **BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PILOT STUDY**

Launched the Bicycle Transportation Study to evaluate cyclists' usage of public transportation. The survey is currently available in an online format that can be accessed through the MBTA website. The survey will be concluded at the end of June, with a detailed report to follow.

### **FEDERAL TRANSIT AGENCY GRANT**

Applied for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant for applied research in the area of public participation as it relates to the planning of public transportation projects and programs. The project titled "Democratizing Public Transit: Using Innovation and Engagement to Make Transportation Planning a Truly Public Process", will evaluate and address current shortfalls in the public participation process as it relates to transit.



## ***ABC MEMBERSHIP REVENUE REPORT***

### **New ABC Members**

- \*MA Hauling/Capital Paper Recycling
  - CBT Architects
  - \*Clean Harbors
  - DLA Piper
  - \*Plymouth Rock Assurance
  - Renaissance Boston Hotel
  - \*Tsoi/Kobus & Associates
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***Total: \$ 40,000***

\*Uncollected dues as of 5/27/08