



News from A Better City

June 2011

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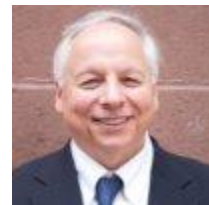
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Letter from the President

Welcome to our newly redesigned newsletter: shorter articles with links to additional information, photos and more. We've streamlined things so that you can read it all in your email, either on your desktop or mobile device. We hope you like it.



ABC President &
CEO Rick Dimino

The articles below will update you on ABC's work on transportation, land development and environmental sustainability. We're helping to get the word out about bridge projects on I-93 and along the Charles River. We're also advocating for new ways to pay for transportation. We continue to help employers provide commuting options through our Transportation Management Association. And we're expanding our newest program, the Challenge for Sustainability, to help Boston-area businesses green their operations. It's all part of our continuing work to make Greater Boston a better city.

If you like what you see here and are not yet a member, I hope you'll consider [contacting us for more information](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rick Dimino'.

Richard A. Dimino
President & CEO
A Better City

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So far so good...

I-93 "Fast 14" Bridge Work Continues

As our newsletter subscribers know, ABC has been helping get the word out

about the "Fast 14" project to replace structurally deficient highway overpasses on Route I-93 in Medford north of Boston. Starting the weekend of June 3 and continuing every weekend this summer (except July 1-3), I-93 is being reduced to two travel lanes in each direction as crews demolish and replace each bridge with prefabricated sections. It's a revolutionary construction technique; check out this [video from MassDOT](#) to learn more.



So far the work has proceeded according to schedule, and traffic, while heavy, has not required additional mitigation. ABC will continue to issue weekly notices on the project, encouraging our members and other readers to avoid I-93 and impacted surface routes, and to take public transportation whenever possible. You can also check out MassDOT's [Fast 14 web site](#) to view a map of the work area, get detour information and sign up for e-alerts.

ABC is also using social media to help get the word out on the project. Follow [@ABetterCity on Twitter](#) for the latest updates on Fast14, along with the rest of our work.

Thanks for your attention and patience. With your help, we can make sure this ambitious project continues to be successful.

Making the Case for Transit

White Paper, Panel Stress Need for Reform *and* Revenue



L-R: Sec. Mullan, Rick Dimino, Mike Widmer, Paul Regan, Tom Cahir, Astrid Glynn.

On April 25, ABC hosted a [panel discussion](#) on the need for a comprehensive financial solution for the Commonwealth's transit systems. The event marked the release of *Transit Finance in Massachusetts: A Framework for Discussion*, a white paper looking at the finance strategies of other major transit systems across the country and offering lessons for the MBTA and the state's 15 other Regional Transit Authorities.

Thanks to all our panelists and to the [Boston Harbor Hotel](#) for generously hosting the event in their beautiful Wharf Room.

Since the paper's release, ABC has begun the work of building a coalition of transportation advocates to speak with one voice about the need for additional revenues for the state's transportation systems. ABC's Transportation Finance and Policy committee met with Sen. Thomas McGee, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, to discuss his priorities for the current session. Sen. McGee and his co-chair, Rep. Bill Straus, are planning a series of field hearings on transportation around the state this summer and fall, and ABC hopes to be a part of those discussions.



Click the cover image to download the report

ABC looks forward to working with other advocates and stakeholders to make the case that the entire Commonwealth will benefit from smart, sustainable investments in transportation.

[Click here to read the white paper \(PDF\).](#)

[Click here to view slides from the event \(PDF\).](#)

[Click here for more photos from the event.](#)

Breaking Ground on the Crossroads Initiative

Broad Street Under Construction

As anyone who's been to the ABC offices lately can see (and hear), construction is well underway on Broad Street, the first thoroughfare to receive a facelift as part of the City's [Crossroads Initiative](#). The program aims to improve the connections between

downtown neighborhoods -- the

Wharf District and the Greenway, in the case of Broad Street -- by remaking key streets with wider sidewalks, trees and space for outdoor cafes.

Broad Street is slated for completion next year; ABC will update



Crews at work on Broad Street

abutting members on progress and detours throughout the project. Next up for the Crossroads Initiative are improvements to Summer and Congress Streets (connecting the Financial District and the South Boston Waterfront) and to Causeway Street. Those projects are currently being designed.

Greenway in Bloom

Harbor Islands Pavilion, New Food Trucks

Summer is here, and the Greenway is looking better and better. This spring saw the opening of the [Harbor Islands Pavilion](#), the first permanent structure to be built on the Greenway. ABC attended the opening ceremony, which featured remarks by Mayor Thomas



The new Harbor Islands Pavilion on the Greenway

Menino and Vicki Kennedy, the widow of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy. Congratulations to Harbor Island Alliance and all the city, state and federal officials who helped make this project a reality.



Grilled Cheese Nation, one of the Greenway's new food trucks

In other Greenway news, this summer the Greenway Conservancy has expanded its successful food vendor program. Joining returning favorites like Clover and Silk Road BBQ are Lefty's Silver Cart, Equal Exchange Cafe's bike cart and Grilled Cheese Nation, among others.

Check out this [Google Map](#) to see where the new vendors have set up shop.

Congratulations to the Greenway Conservancy for a successful summer season thusfar. ABC's Greenway Abutters Committee continues to work closely with the Conservancy to update our members about the latest developments on the Greenway. We share with the Conservancy the goal of making the Greenway, in its own unique way, the equal of Boston's other great public spaces.

ABC Brings Home Boston Green Business, MassDOT ECO Awards

For Sustainability, TMA Work

The Bruins weren't the only Boston team to bring home the hardware this spring. ABC's Challenge for Sustainability and Transportation Management Association (TMA) garnered prizes as well. The Challenge was honored at Boston's Fifth Annual Green Business Awards, at a ceremony held at Atlantic Wharf, the city's first green skyscraper.



Mayor Menino presents ABC with a Green Business Award

Also receiving awards were ABC members the Museum of Science, ADD Inc., the Seaport Hotel, and Nutter McClennen & Fish.

Also this Spring, ABC TMA was honored at MassDOT's inaugural Excellence in Commuter Options (ECO) Awards. The event was co-hosted by MassCommute and the TMA Council of Massachusetts. Congratulations to David Straus, Megan Ramey and Dorothy Fennell for their work on these programs, and to all the other awards winners.

MassCommuter Challenge Rewards Cycling

ABC TMA Helps Organizes Bike Week Event

An unusually rainy week didn't deter cyclists around the state from making this year's MassCommuter Challenge a smashing success.

ABC TMA played a lead role in organizing the event, which encourages riders to keep track of the miles they bike during the statewide Bike Week.

Prizes were awarded for the teams that logged the most miles, in total and per person. Attendees at the Bike Bash afterparty also had the chance to win one of 40 bike-related raffle prizes, all collected and organized by ABC TMA's own Dot Fennell.



ABC TMA member Mass. General Hospital took home an award in this year's MassCommuter Challenge

Overall, 2011 Challenge participants logged more 226,000 miles, up from 222,000 in 2010. ABC and ABC TMA members were well-represented, comprising 713 of 3,459 participants on 22 of 197 workplace teams.

Congratulations to all our 2011 award winners and to everyone who got on a bike as part of this year's challenge!

ABC Launches Online Sustainability Toolkit

Web Resources to Help You Meet Your Green Goals

As part of the Challenge for Sustainability, A Better City has continued to develop its [Sustainability Toolkit](#) to help companies reduce their carbon footprint. Until recently, the toolkit had been available only to Challenge participants. Now ABC has made this resource available to the general public.



The Energy Audit Page is the latest addition to our online Sustainability Toolkit. Click above to explore.

A [detailed page](#) on how to conduct an energy audit is a new addition to the website. We're constantly updating the toolkit as more resources, information, and incentives present themselves.

Help Boston Become a "Green Power Community"

Join Other ABC Members in Offsetting Your Electricity

A Better City's membership is in the position to do something huge for the City of Boston for very little investment. If each ABC member spends as little as \$300 annually to offset a portion of its electric bill, Boston could be certified a [Green Power Community](#) by the EPA. Right now, Washington, D.C. is the only large city on the East coast to achieve this status. With your help, Boston can be the second, ahead of New York!



In addition to helping the environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating green jobs, becoming a [Green Power Partner](#) sends a powerful message to your employees, customers and the media, about your company's commitment to sustainability.

ABC members that have achieved Green Power Partnership status include Genzyme, Nixon Peabody, the Seaport World Trade Center and the New England Aquarium. Please contact [Megan Ramey](#) if you are interested.

Getting Boston Ready for Electric Vehicles

ABC, City, Connect Real Estate Community, EV Vendors

Last month, ABC helped the City of Boston put on an Electric Vehicle Charging Vendor Fair and Forum at the Seaport Hotel. The event aimed to introduce Boston's real estate community to vendors offering EV charging infrastructure and technology. The event, which attracted 100 attendees, dovetailed with the announcement of the City's first on-street EV charging stations near Government Center. Many thanks to ABC member the Seaport Hotel for hosting the event.

ABC will continue to serve as a liaison between the real estate and business community and the City on sustainability issues. Next up for ABC: staffing the Mayor's Green Ribbon commission's Real Estate Working Group, which is chaired by former ABC chair Mike Mooney of Nutter, McClennen & Fish.



ABC Staff, Members Volunteer at The Food Project

Urban Farm Promotes Sustainable Agriculture

As part of our own participation in the Challenge for Sustainability, ABC staffers joined employees of ABC Challenge participants to get our hands dirty at [The Food Project](#). And we mean that literally; volunteer coordinators put us to work building and prepping planting beds, weeding, harvesting, even laying irrigation lines.

The Food Project is a nonprofit with locations in Boston, Lincoln and on the North Shore dedicated to educating young people about sustainable agriculture. Students farm the nonprofit's 37 acres and learn how food gets to their tables. The fruits of their labor are distributed through farmers markets, as shares for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscribers, and donated to hunger-relief programs.

ABC is proud to support innovative nonprofits like The Food Project which are working to raise awareness of sustainability among the next generation.



ABC Welcomes Shannon Garber

We're happy to announce that Shannon Garber has joined the staff as ABC's new Marketing and Development Coordinator. Shannon comes to ABC from a background in nonprofit operations and development, most recently as the development coordinator at Pioneer Institute. She will be organizing member services, ABC events and project funding opportunities.



If you have any membership leads (or if you are interested in ABC membership for your organization), please contact Shannon at 617-502-6255 or sgarber@abettercity.org.