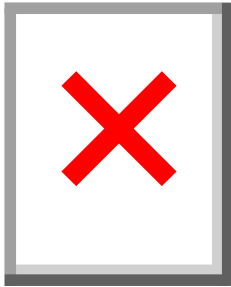


From: A Better City <kdineen@abettercity.org>
Sent: Jun 23, 2025 19:17:09.000000000 UTC
Subject: A Better City Newsletter | June 2025
To: mgrover@cityofmelrose.org <mgrover@cityofmelrose.org>



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FEATURED A BETTER CITY ANALYSIS

An Update on Transportation Funding

Tom Ryan, Senior Advisor on Policy, Government and Community Affairs

PLAN: Downtown Zoning

Tom Nally, Senior Advisor

Establishing a Regional Flood Resilience Authority

Isabella Gambill, Assistant Director of Climate, Energy & Resilience

Emergency Shutoff Protections for Extreme Heat

Isabella Gambill, Assistant Director of Climate, Energy & Resilience

A BETTER CITY IN THE NEWS

StreetsBlog: [Want to Try Bike Commuting? Try A 'Guided Ride' From A Better City](#)

Boston Globe: [Is it time for Mass. to rein in tow companies?](#)

Banker & Tradesman: [The Big Beautiful Bill Would Harm Transportation in Massachusetts](#)

Boston Business Journal: [TransitMatters names new leader](#)

StreetsBlog: [TransitMatters Hires Transportation Policy Expert Caitlin Allen-Connelly as Its New Executive Director](#)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Boston Red Sox: [Red Sox ownership unveils new office building that would rise above Fenway's Green Monster](#)

BXP, Colliers, Harvard University Housing, Intercontinental Hotels, Related: [Green Lease Leaders 2025](#)

CIC: [My day working at the Cambridge Innovation Center](#)

CIC, Perkins&Will: [Cambridge Innovation Center teams up on new, \\$100M Climate Innovation Hub in NYC](#)

Dana Farber: [Boston greenlights Dana-Farber's 300-bed cancer facility](#)

Equity Residential: [A look at Boston's 15 office-to-residential projects in the pipeline](#)

RCC: [Community college enrollment is higher than ever in Mass.](#)

Vertex: [Milestone reached on yet another Seaport building for Vertex](#)

WS Development: [How Their Gardens Grow](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact [Leann Kosior](#) for more information.

A Better City Executive Committee Meeting with Segun Idowu

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 @ 8:00 - 9:30 AM

Article 80 Modernization Focus Group

July TBC

Water Transit Month Ferry Landing Tour

July TBC

UPDATES

A Better City Guided Rides Series Underway: Don't miss out on A Better City's Guided Ride Series—a free program that teaches people how to navigate Boston by bike! We are offering shorter weekday rides Tuesday to Thursday each week, which explore our Urban Loop, and longer weekend rides that highlight parts of the regional bike network, and also make downtown connections. Sign up for a ride [here](#). You can also check out our [free mapping resources](#) to help plan your route and ride and [how-to videos](#) to help you maintain your bike and your skills.

Accessing Cooling Resources in Boston: In response to A Better City and other stakeholders requesting publicly accessible information that details the City of Boston's cooling resources by neighborhood, the Office of Climate Resilience and Office of Emergency Management recently launched an interactive [cooling resources map](#), which details locations for cooling centers, splash pads, and other cooling features throughout the city. As a reminder, the City also offers the [AlertBoston](#) tool for heat safety communications, which enables residents to opt-in to receiving communications from the city about official heat advisory and emergency declarations, and where to find heat relief.

Connecting Extreme Heat and Public Health: The State's Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health has been working in partnership with the Department of Public Health and local physicians and healthcare institutions to explore the intersections of public health and extreme heat risk. To support this work, the Bureau has launched a new [extreme heat webpage](#), featuring an [Extreme Heat Resource Guide](#), [extreme heat resources and best practices](#), and local and statewide planning tools like the [Unhealthy Heat Forecast](#).

July 17 BE+ Building Tech Forum: On July 17 from 5-9:30 PM, Build Environment Plus is hosting the Building Tech Forum 2025, a series of 45 x 5-minute lightning talks where industry leaders present practical innovations accelerating the sustainable and regenerative design, construction and operation of the built environment. All presenters are then available at networking tables to connect and explore the future of building science and the collaborative potential of the moment. The event will be held at the Tufts University Joyce Cummings Center at 177 College Avenue in Medford and attendees are encouraged to [register here](#).

July 31 Deadline for MassCEC Bi-Directional EV Charging Pilot Program: MassCEC is seeking commercial applicants who own or are in the process of purchasing an EV capable of bi-directional charging to participate in the V2X Demonstration Program, a cutting-edge project that seeks to create a more resilient grid using EVs as energy storage. Participants in the program will receive a free bi-directional EV charger, including equipment and installation, and share data to be analyzed. Learn more about eligibility, program schedule, and how to complete an application on the [MassCEC website](#).

MassCEC BETA Program Expanded: MassCEC has recently announced an expansion of the BETA program to include all commercial buildings across the Commonwealth. This pilot initiative is designed to provide no-cost building audits and custom decarbonizations plans to each building so they can achieve net-zero by 2050. [See details here](#).

October 22-24 Climate Beacon Conference: New England's premier climate solutions conference is where leaders and decision-makers come together with experts and practitioners to chart a course to a more livable,

sustainable future. This year's conference will be held on October 22-24 in downtown Boston. Learn more [here](#).

RECENT NEWS

JUNE 23 | Boston Globe: [Heat index could reach 110 degrees Tuesday as Boston, region swelter](#)

JUNE 20 | Boston Globe: [House Speaker Ron Mariano, 78, plans to seek another term](#)

JUNE 18 | Boston Globe: [Healey opened the door to tweaking the 'millionaires tax.' Now what?](#)

JUNE 18 | Boston Globe: [The Mass. Pike rest stops are about to get a makeover. Here's what readers want to see.](#)

JUNE 17 | CommonWealth Beacon: [Milton Town Meeting decides to comply with MBTA Communities law](#)

JUNE 16 | Boston Globe: [Return of Blue Line interrupted by signal issues; train service suspended](#)

JUNE 16 | CommonWealth Beacon: ['Open for business': Despite tariffs, leaders from northeastern states and Canada pledge to work together](#)

JUNE 12 | CommonWealth Beacon: [Could the Trump administration's border policies affect 2026 World Cup tourism in Massachusetts?](#)

JUNE 12 | Boston Globe: [Boston's office market goes from bad to worse. What's Wu's Plan B?](#)

JUNE 11 | Boston Globe: [Green Line riders already deal with the slowest speeds. Now service will be less frequent this summer, too.](#)

JUNE 11 | Boston Globe: [Decades after a tense N.H. protest, nuclear energy has become a rare bipartisan issue. Here's why.](#)

JUNE 10 | SHNS: [Wealth surtax may generate \\$3 billion](#)

JUNE 10 | Boston Globe: [At Globe tech summit, Healey criticizes Trump on LA protests, says she's open to evaluating millionaire's tax](#)

JUNE 10 | Boston Globe: ['Sicker, weaker and less competitive': NIH chief faces Senate questions on budget cuts that threaten Mass.](#)

JUNE 10 | Boston Globe: ['An abundance of pessimism': New England voters are down on Trump, the economy — and even Democrats, Suffolk/Globe poll finds](#)

JUNE 10 | Boston Globe: [Boston convention center to be named for former mayor Tom Menino, who pushed development of Seaport District](#)

JUNE 7 | Boston Globe Editorial: [Boston's downtown has nowhere to go but up](#)

JUNE 6 | Boston Globe: [Towns lose their latest challenge to controversial state housing law](#)

JUNE 5 | Boston Globe: [Massport pushing to make the state a hub for sustainable aviation fuels](#)

JUNE 5 | Boston Business Journal: [Boston office valuations set to plummet further, straining city budget](#)

JUNE 5 | Boston Globe: ['The Commonwealth's business model is at risk': Trump 2.0 is hitting Massachusetts harder than expected](#)

JUNE 4 | Boston Business Journal: [Mass. has strongest economy in United States, new study says](#)

JUNE 4 | Boston Globe: **How Trump's big bill will affect taxes, deficit, and health care, according to the budget office**

JUNE 4 | Boston Globe: **Boston City Council unanimously approves \$9 million in amendments to Wu's proposed \$4.8 billion budget for next year**

JUNE 4 | Boston Globe: **Don't call it the 'millionaires' tax: Inflation is raising the bar on who pays Massachusetts' high-earner levy**

MAY 30 | Boston Globe: **City plan would allow 700-foot towers across downtown. But some say 'it was a sham.'**

MAY 29 | Boston Globe Editorial: **Booze and politics: Cutting the legislative cord**

MAY 29 | Boston Globe: **Inside the hidden tunnel under Harvard Square that could be the region's coolest music venue**

MAY 28 | Bloomberg: **NYC Congestion Toll Brings In \$216 Million in First Four Months**

MAY 28 | Boston Globe: **Healey, moving to cut red tape and burnish business-friendly chops, unveils dozens of regulatory changes**

MAY 28 | Boston Globe: **Josh Kraft's campaign has a big bank account, but small ideas**

MAY 28 | Boston Globe: **Phil Eng fixing problems on Boston's MBTA subway**

MAY 28 | Boston Globe: **T has to electrify its bus fleet by 2040. Amid delays and soaring costs, some are skeptical.**

MAY 27 | Boston Globe: **'A blunt force axe': Mass. Democrats warn of harm to hospitals, health care under Trump budget proposal**

MAY 27 | Boston Globe: **Self-driving taxis may be coming to town. Boston drivers are already enraged.**

MAY 27 | Boston Globe: **Why is Donald Trump going after Massachusetts?**

MAY 23 | Boston Globe: **Boston announces new safety measures after fatal school bus crash**

MAY 23 | Boston Globe: **Under pressure from Trump and manufacturers, Mass. punts on electric vehicle mandate**

MAY 23 | Boston Globe: **Massachusetts utility bills are climbing. Here are four possible fixes.**

MAY 22 | Boston Globe: **As feds look to downsize, downtown Coast Guard building could go up for sale**

MAY 22 | NY Times: **Senate Republicans Kill California's Ban on Gas-Powered Cars**

MAY 22 | Reuters: **House budget bill effectively halts US clean energy boom**

MAY 22 | Boston Globe: **Trump says he's got a 'big, beautiful' tax bill. Investors don't love it.**

MAY 22 | BOSTINNO: **Microsoft agrees to buy 622K tons of 'green' cement from Mass. company**

MAY 22 | Boston Globe: **Rezone Devens to build more housing**

MAY 22 | Boston Globe: **Hydro-Quebec shut off the spigots for New England power in March and hasn't turned them back on. Why?**

MAY 22 | Boston Globe: **Massachusetts leads the nation in lost NSF research funding**

MAY 21 | Boston Globe: [Massachusetts has already collected \\$2.6b in 'millionaires tax' cash, surging past state projections](#)

MAY 20 | Boston Globe: [Census shows recent growth in most Mass. cities and towns](#)

MAY 20 | Boston Globe: [Rising seas whip up talk of property buyouts](#)

RESOURCES

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