



**To:** Seaport TMA Members  
**From:** Lauren Grymek, Seaport TMA Director  
**Date:** February 6, 2007  
**Re:** Recap of Work Related to I-90 Connector Closure

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The I-90 Connector accident and resulting closures presented significant challenges for Seaport TMA Members and their employees, residents, tenants and visitors. The artificial traffic patterns and increased congestion on area roadways created made for unwanted obstacles when traveling to and from the area. Over the course of the nearly seven months that we were forced to deal with these circumstances, the Seaport TMA worked diligently to lessen the impact that our members felt.

Employees commuting to, from and through Boston as well as travelers headed for Logan Airport all experienced considerable frustrations in getting to their destinations. Many of these commuters and motorists were detoured through the Waterfront, putting additional strain on our area's roadways. Additionally, with major connections and throughways to the Seaport District closed for extended periods of time, area employees and visitors were forced to navigate unfamiliar routes and use alternative modes of transportation. In an area where many of the major roadways are still considerably new, and new construction and development are a regular sight, all of these factors combined presented an even greater challenge to move people in, out and around the Seaport District. Nonetheless, businesses stayed open, concerts and events proceeded as planned and thousands of employees continued to get to and from work: Seaport TMA Members and their constituents proved to be resilient in adapting to the conditions.

With the recent re-opening of Exit 20 from I-93 North, the last major reopening to occur since July 11<sup>th</sup>, now is the perfect time to look back and review the significant accomplishments the organization achieved during an undoubtedly difficult time. The highlights below summarize the efforts put forth by the Seaport TMA in order to mitigate the negative impacts resulting from the I-90 Connector closures and detours:

- **Collaborated with key area agencies** to address issues related to pedestrian safety and traffic flow, including the Massachusetts State Police, City of Boston Police Department, Boston Transportation Department, MBTA, Massachusetts Port Authority and Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (Central Artery/Tunnel Project).



- **Secured a position on the unofficial committee** formed in the days immediately following the I-90 Connector accident which consisted of area agencies working together to share information on closures, detours, commuter concerns, traffic issues and the re-openings of area roadways as they happened.
  - This committee met weekly at Boston City Hall from July 11, 2006 until the end of January 24, 2007.
  - The formation of **new working relationships** with key contacts from the Boston Transportation Department, Massachusetts Highway Department and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority was a direct result of the Seaport TMA being a recognized organization on this committee.
  
- Under the direction of Seaport TMA Member Fidelity Investments, coordinated a temporary **North Station Water Shuttle** with Rowes Wharf Water Transport, servicing the Seaport World Trade and Lovejoy Wharf at North Station during the p.m. commute period.
  - This initiative, though short in timeframe, provided a transportation alternative for commuters destined for North Station when trips by area shuttle buses were experiencing significant delays.
  - The service was well received by the commuters who utilized it, as evidenced by the accompanying article that appeared in the *Boston Herald* on July 21, 2006.
  
- Continued to promote **full use of the transportation network**, including water transportation, and intensely monitored Silver Line Waterfront operations in light of the sudden increase in ridership the system felt.
  - Highlighted **water taxis** as a convenient and affordable option for traveling to Logan Airport and destinations throughout Boston Harbor.
  - Sponsored three days of free rides on the **Seaport Express Ferry** between Central Wharf and the Seaport World Trade Center.
  - Created and distributed **Alternative Transportation Options** marketing materials to Seaport TMA Members, including “Post Labor Day Planning” and “Plan Ahead: Thanksgiving Holiday”.
  
- Issued **23 Traffic Advisories** detailing the closings and re-openings of major roadways, exits and on-ramps.
  - Six of these advisories included detailed maps outlining the traffic patterns.
  - All advisories were posted on a special webpage for I-90 Connector Updates and Information at [www.seaporttma.org](http://www.seaporttma.org).
  
- Revised **35 Sets of Directions** coming to and from the area for Seaport TMA Members.



- **Responded to and followed up with individual commuters** who contacted the Seaport TMA on their own with questions or concerns and, in turn, provided consulting services when necessary.
  - Worked to provide additional information and specific details at members' requests when they received questions and concerns from their employees and residents.
  
- Under the direction of Seaport TMA Member the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, conducted **Two Thorough Analysis of Directional Signage** for the Seaport District.
  - The Seaport TMA presented recommendations for new signage and modifications to existing signage to the Boston Transportation Department and Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. The agencies implemented these suggestions on our behalf, in order to ensure clear navigation to and from the Seaport District.

Seaport TMA Members should be proud of these accomplishments, our ability to work together and our collaboration with area stakeholders through difficult times. It is also important to recognize the area agencies that had a hand to play in mitigating the traffic impacts related to the closures and detours: the Boston Transportation Department, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, MassPort, the Executive Office of Transportation, our political leadership and many others.

In closing, while the circumstances related to the I-90 Connector Closure presented us with challenges and, subsequently, resulted in notable accomplishments, we must remain mindful of the fact that this event was also marked by tragedy. The loss of a life can not be compared to any traffic or transportation inconvenience and as such, the Seaport TMA expresses our sadness and hope for the family of Milena Delvalle.