



WalkBoston



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Bridging the truth gap

When the talk turns to the network of parks that are a fringe benefit of the Big Dig, Turnpike Chairman Matthew Amorello waxes nearly poetic. (Well, it probably beats talking about leaks in the tunnels.)

But those parks are only as useful as the access to them, and right now that access is a huge question mark. Three pedestrian bridges were planned in the Charles River Basin area to provide a continuous walking and biking trail from the Esplanade to the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the Harborwalk.

But the perpetually cash-strapped Big Dig (at least when it comes to the project's "benefits") is considering renegeing on its 1993 commitment to build two of the three bridges in question.

No matter how often Pike spokeswoman Mariellen Burns repeats her "The project has honored its commitment" mantra, that doesn't make it so.

The commitment wasn't just about dollars spent but about what the dollars would be spent on — and those bridges were part of the deal.

WalkBoston and a number of like-minded groups (MassBike, the Charles River Conservancy) organized a walk this week to raise awareness of the need for all three bridges to be completed.

This was part of the promise made to the people of this community, who have put up with the noise, the dirt and the traffic congestion of the Big Dig. It's a promise that simply must be kept.

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MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES MORE WALKABLE

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