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## Environmental honcho gets Greenway sidewalk moving

By **Thomas Caywood**

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**T**he state's top environmental regulator yesterday rapped Boston and Big Dig officials for straying from the agreed-upon vision for the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Weighing in on a spat over sidewalk design for a hotel development, state Environmental Secretary Stephen Pritchard directed the city and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to stick to guidelines set down a decade ago through public meetings.

The order released yesterday faulted the city, Big Dig and InterContinental Hotel developer Extell Boston Harbor for failing to notify environmental regulators about design changes that would have routed pedestrians around the hotel's drive-up entrance.

The pedestrian group Walk Boston had interceded, arguing that such a change wasn't in keeping with the Greenway's vision as a walkable string of parks from Chinatown to the North End.

"We really accomplished the two big things we wanted to: to get a sidewalk and to make sure this kind of design doesn't happen again," said Walk Boston Executive Director Wendy Landman.

Extell Managing Director Brian Fallon issued a statement saying a compromise design was approved and the \$500 million project can proceed with no further review.

"This was a complicated site to develop because of it wrapping the vent buildings near the tunnel entrances," said Boston Redevelopment Authority spokeswoman Susan Elsbree.

MassPike and Big Dig spokeswoman Mariellen Burns welcomed the state order.

"This was years in developing the design of the Greenway with input from the public and community. We're committed to honoring that," Burns said.