

WELCOME TO THE
CHOOSE FRAMINGHAM NEWSLETTER



*Choose Framingham Newsletter
September 30, 2017 - In This Issue:*

**Choose Framingham Looks at the
Life Sciences Sector in MetroWest**

Business Profile: Trebl

**MassDOT Update on
Transportation Work in
Framingham**

**The Suites at 550 Offers Space and
Support Services**



MassDOT Update on Transportation Work in Framingham

[Choose Framingham](#) decided to check in with the [Massachusetts Department of Transportation](#) (MassDOT) to get an update from them on the transportation work they

Choose Framingham Looks at the Life Sciences Sector in MetroWest

What do Paris, Milan, and Munich have in common with Framingham? As pointed out by CEO Gabriele Brambilla at an event at the Sheraton Framingham on September 13th, they all host offices of [Alira Health](#), a life sciences company with six international locations. Brambilla joined representatives from Framingham's life sciences cluster, including [Sanofi Genzyme's](#) Vice President of Biologics Paul Logue; Kevin Flynn, Vice

are pursuing near the Golden Triangle/Exit 13 and beyond. MassDOT is investing more than \$13 million in projects in Framingham, along with the ongoing work they have undertaken on the Mass Pike. Many thanks to MassDOT for answering our questions on the state of construction throughout town.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is conducting work at Exit 13 on I-90 (the Massachusetts Turnpike) in Framingham for the ongoing toll demolition and road reconstruction project.

This work has consisted of demolishing the former toll plazas, realigning the ramps, and repaving the roadway to allow for normal highway usage.

Crews and contractors are in the final stage of work at this location and are currently conducting work in the median of I-90. Once the median work is complete, the crews will final pave the middle of the interchange and paint the permanent lane lines. Crews are expected to achieve the substantial completion milestone by October 27, 2017.

The toll demolition and road reconstruction project is related to the Commonwealth's transition to All Electronic Tolling. Beginning in October 2016, MassDOT began work at 23 toll plaza locations across Massachusetts, and work at all of these locations is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Throughout this roadway reconstruction effort, and with all construction projects, MassDOT is proud to coordinate with key stakeholders including officials in local cities and towns, elected leaders, area business owners and civic and nonprofit organization officials. MassDOT has been pleased to implement All Electronic Tolling, which has the goals of increased safety, decreased congestion, and fewer harmful environmental impacts. Drivers are already experiencing time savings - in June 2017, drivers traveling along I-90 during the morning commute had a 10-minute quicker commute from the I-95 area into Boston (as compared to June 2016).



President of Organizational Development and Human Resources at [Boston Heart Diagnostics](#); and Dr. Margaret Carroll, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics at [Framingham State University](#) (FSU).

The forum, which was co-hosted by Framingham's [Economic Development and Industrial Corporation](#) (EDIC) and the [Metrowest Chamber of Commerce](#) (MWCoC), began with keynote remarks from [State Senator Karen Spilka](#) and Travis McCready, president and CEO of the [Massachusetts Life Sciences Center](#) (MLSC). State Senator Spilka talked about the efforts it took to get the Life Sciences bill passed in 2008, and why Massachusetts must continue to fund the life sciences initiative if we hope to remain competitive. McCready discussed the work that MLSC is pursuing to ensure that Massachusetts is a place where life sciences companies can locate both research and development and manufacturing sites.

Both Spilka and McCready mentioned that while advanced biomanufacturing has decreased in the rest of the country, Massachusetts is one of the few places where biomanufacturing has grown in the last decade. According to McCready, MLSC is aware of the importance of business development as part of its mission. "Framingham isn't going to win every opportunity" for life sciences business "but it is going to win some," McCready said.

The keynote remarks were followed by a panel discussion moderated by MWCoC's Paul Joseph and featuring Logue, Brambilla, Carroll, and Flynn. All of the representatives talked about the advantages of being in Metrowest - a lower cost of doing business while being able to recruit senior talent - but Kevin Flynn of Boston Heart Diagnostics mentioned the challenge of retaining younger workers in the area. Sanofi Genzyme's Paul Logue discussed ways that the sector can work cooperatively, saying, "What's good for one is good for all." Logue also mentioned the need for planning certainty as his and other companies think about expanding.

Also emerging from the discussion was a newly-launched effort from Framingham State University to create a co-op program for Metrowest's life sciences companies. "Our students are from Metrowest and this is where they stay," said FSU's Dr. Carroll.

The event ended with remarks from EDIC chair Mike Gatlin and the director of Framingham's Community & Economic Development division Art Robert. Additionally, Framingham Town Manager Bob Halpin offered remarks during the program about the efforts town staff has made over the past several years to make sure Framingham is seen as a business-friendly community. Those interested in watching the event, *The Life Sciences Sector in Framingham and Metrowest: Today and Tomorrow*, can do so at Framingham's [government channel](#).

Business Profile: Trebl

MassDOT is conducting several other projects in the Framingham area. This includes rehabilitating the bridge that carries I-90 over Foss Reservoir and reconstructing the approach roadways. This is a \$5.7 million project that is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

MassDOT is replacing the existing bridge that carries Winter Street over the MBTA, Amtrak and CSX railroads. The proposed abutments will be located behind the existing abutments to increase the number of railroad tracks beneath the bridge. This \$6.6 million project is putting in place a new four-lane, single span bridge. The bridge is currently scheduled to be re-opened to two-way traffic by October 31, 2017. Work will continue until mid-2018 however the bridge will remain open except for infrequent short-duration (over-night) closures as required to complete the work.

MassDOT is also rehabilitating the bridge that carries Mount Wayne Avenue over the CSX railroad. The work includes substructure and concrete deck repair, replacing deck joints, and installing sidewalks and railings. This \$1.2 million project is scheduled to be completed this year.

The Concord Street Corridor project is completed except for work on various minor punch-list items.

Please see this recent press release regarding the Framingham Commuter Rail Station Parking Lot: <https://www.mbta.com/news/2653>

MassDOT is committed to ensuring that residents and commuters are able to utilize their preferred mode of travel including bicycling, walking, riding public transit, or driving. MassDOT is continuing to work closely with its partners throughout the Commonwealth, including other state agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), as well as local cities and towns to continue developing an integrated and multimodal transportation. By ensuring that people throughout Massachusetts are better connected with multimodal trails and infrastructure, we can enjoy benefits such as fewer harmful environmental impacts, an increased ability to enjoy our scenic landscape, more

Trebl Brings Soccer-Inspired Active Wear to Metrowest



"Soccer is booming in the US, more and more people are watching it. Major League Soccer broke records last year," says Luiz Fernandes, one of three Framingham-raised co-founders of [Trebl](#). "We saw a space in the market for soccer-inspired clothing and we wanted to fill it."

Fernandes partnered with two high school friends, Brendan Moran and Allan Araujo, to found Trebl in 2016. The venture is truly Framingham grown - all three graduated from Framingham High School. Fernandes graduated from Framingham State University (FSU) last year with a degree in management, while Araujo matriculated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, also in 2016. Moran is completing his fashion design degree from FSU this year.

"Soccer is really more than just what is on the field. There is a whole culture off the field, and we really wanted to capture that in the clothing. There's been an explosion of fashion forward athletic wear like Lululemon, but no one was focusing on the US market when it came to soccer-inspired athletic wear," Fernandes says.

The majority of Trebl's customers are people between the ages of 16 and 30 who are active and athletic-minded... and love soccer, naturally. Trebl has focused its efforts on its online store and while most of their customers have come from around New England, they have sold active wear to individuals in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Their best-selling item? A high quality long-sleeve t-shirt that continues to be popular with both men and women.



So what's next for Trebl? Much of their focus has been online, with a growing presence on both [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). But Fernandes says that they hope to expand their visibility in Massachusetts by focusing on promotional events, especially as the colder weather nears.

And as for their connection to their hometown of Framingham, Fernandes says, "We're all Framingham boys, so we feel connected to it. Creating a business in Metrowest is awesome because everything is booming and you're not far from anything! It's a great area to try to develop a business, and Framingham in particular."

Check out Trebl's online store at TreblWear.com and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

opportunities to reach jobs, businesses, and local destinations, and an improved quality of life.

The Suites at 550 Offers Space and Support Services to Growing Framingham Businesses

For six years, [The Suites at 550](#) has been providing an unparalleled locale for sophisticated and convenient office space and support services for businesses from around the world - and often, a launching pad for businesses to grow. The mission of The Suites at 550 is to "manage your office while you do the business that supports you," and it has worked hard to ensure that this vision comes true.

With offices ranging in size from 80 to 258 square feet, The Suites caters to businesses of all shapes and sizes, including lawyers, recruiters, accountants, medical consulting, and divisions of national and international companies.

Since a company's workplace reflects on the company itself, The Suites at 550 strives to ensure that the impression is a remarkable one. Walking in to The Suites, individuals enter a contemporary reception area with a professional receptionist for visitors. Beyond this beautiful entrance, The Suites caters to practically every need that a company - or employee - could want or have. There is an on-site dry cleaning service, fitness center, ATM machine, cafeteria, outdoor café, kitchen, and complimentary coffee and tea in the lounge. Once in their offices, which can be accessed 24 hours a day/7 days a week, individuals can work comfortably in the classically furnished offices.

The Suites prides themselves on helping new businesses start and young businesses grow. With this in mind, they offer a unique 90-day release clause for new companies. This means that businesses are not fully locked in during their earliest stages, which is perfect for start-ups that are beginning their journeys. Management at The Suites wholly supports the growing businesses in

their space. General Manager Shelley Schiloski said, "We love to see them outgrow us. It's great to know we were part of it."

One of the most coveted qualities of The Suites at 550 is its location. Being seconds from the Massachusetts Turnpike via exit 13, which is three exits from downtown Boston, has provided a convenient location that has allowed businesses easy access to the city and the highways that take them to areas throughout Massachusetts. If business takes companies out of state, they can drive five more miles down the turnpike, and they're at Boston Logan International Airport. New England travel is no problem either, since The Suites are minutes from Routes 495 and 128.

If you or your company are looking for the perfect place to start or continue your business, The Suites are exactly what you need.

You can visit [The Suites at 550](#) at 550 Cochituate Road, Suite 25, East Wing in Framingham.

Framingham EDIC

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The Framingham Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) was established in 1995 to stimulate economic development and expand employment opportunities in the Town of Framingham in accordance with the town's approved economic development plans.