

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, MINIARD CULPEPPER, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION URGING CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE MBTA'S FARE-FREE BUS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, In 2021 the MBTA began a pilot program to end fare collection on the 28 bus route which runs through the heart of Boston via Blue Hill Avenue and Warren Street; *and*

WHEREAS, In the six month pilot of fare-free service, ridership on the 28 route quickly climbed to pre-pandemic levels, ridership on parallel lines rose, and bus riders saved money; *and*

WHEREAS, The fare-free pilot for the 28 bus route showed that saving even two dollars can make a difference in someone's life and the program's popularity saw it extended and expanded, now including the 23 and 29 bus routes; *and*

WHEREAS, The expansion of the program continued its success and now boasts 24,000 fare free trips across the three routes every weekday, with ridership rates significantly surpassing pre-pandemic levels, and travel times reduced thanks to all-door boarding shrinking time spent dwelling at bus stops; *and*

WHEREAS, The fare-free bus routes program is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, a landmark stimulus package which allowed for incredible investments in public benefits across the United States; *and*

WHEREAS, The city of Boston has resolved to use its remaining funds from ARPA to fund this popular and powerful program until June 2026, though its fate after June remains uncertain; *and*

WHEREAS, The City is calling for external support to continue this program which greatly improved the riding experience for many Boston residents in Mattapan, Dorchester, and Roxbury; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council support efforts to maintain the fare-free program for the 23, 28, and 29 bus routes and urges extended partnership between the City of Boston and the MBTA.

Filed on: February 25, 2026