



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation
Sharon Durkan, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 20, 2025

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0648, Message and order for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston Streets Cabinet to enter into a contract for a period of up to ten years for the services of an operator for the City's public bike share program, Bluebikes. The contract term would begin in 2026. The City Council's permission to enter into a contract of this type for a period of more than three years is required by section 12 of Chapter 30B of the General Laws.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on March 12, 2025.

Docket #0720, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program, awarded by the United States Department of Transportation to be administered by the Transportation Department. The grant will fund safety design and construction in intersections to employ low-cost, high impact strategies through a safety and equity lens for Complete Street.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on April 2, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0648 authorizes the City of Boston to enter a contract for a period of up to ten years for the services of an operator for the City's bike share program, pursuant to section twelve of Chapter 30B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Docket #0720 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$9,000,000 through the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program. This grant was awarded by the United States of Department of Transportation to be administered by the Boston Transportation Department.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 to discuss Dockets #0648 and #0720. The Committee heard testimony from panelists which included Kim Foltz, Director of Boston Bluebikes, and Lydia Hausle, Capital Projects Design Director - both of the City of Boston Streets Cabinet.

Director Foltz testified in support of Docket #0648 and stated that it is the long term contract for the City's bike share system, Bluebikes. She stated that it is critical for the City to be able to provide long term stability of the bike share system and ensure investment in the successful operations. Long term commitments attracted the private capital support in the amount of \$18 million from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, which is the title sponsor, in 2018. They then renewed this sponsorship in 2023



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in the amount of \$28 million. Director Foltz explained that this is a revenue sharing model-based contract allowing user and title sponsorship revenues to be split between the City's operator and municipal owners of the system. This prevents any reliance on state or City funding to pay for the operations of the system itself. It was noted that the City Council's approval is required for any City contract that is longer than three years and a similar order was approved by the Council 2016 when the City last executed the bike share operations contract.

Director Housley testified in support of Docket #0720 which authorizes the City to accept a grant in the amount of \$9,000,000 that was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation through a competitive grant process. This grant would support safety measures at high-crash risk locations through investments in design, planning, and community engagement, ultimately resulting in safety improvements at nine different intersections throughout Boston. She stated that these intersections were identified through rigorous analysis and community outreach. These locations include areas in Andrew Square in South Boston, Saratoga and Bennington Street in East Boston, Blue Hill Avenue and American Legion Highway, Blue Hill Avenue and Columbia Road, Washington Street and Kneeland Street in Chinatown, Tremont Street and Stuart Street in the Theatre District, Seaver Street and Walnut Street in Egleston Square/Roxbury, and at Brent Street and Wainwright Street in Dorchester.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation, I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Sharon Durkan, Chair
Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation