

Offered by Councilor Kenzie Bok, Worrell, Baker, Arroyo, Breadon, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Louijeune and Murphy



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING ENHANCING BOSTON'S COVID RECOVERY VIA GRANTS PROVIDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

- WHEREAS:* The Biden-Harris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides over \$50 billion in federal infrastructure funding through competitive grants for local governments to recover from the pandemic by investing in programs regarding transportation, climate change mitigation, and cyber resilience; *and*
- WHEREAS:* The competitive grants included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law may provide opportunities for the City of Boston to receive millions of dollars in federal funding, and complement the investments in the American Rescue Plan; *and*
- WHEREAS:* The City of Boston has already applied to a number of these grants, including requesting \$25 million from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE) Grants in April 2022, \$9.3 million from the Clean School Bus Program in July 2022, and \$100 million from the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA); *and*
- WHEREAS:* Moving forward, we expect the City of Boston to apply for additional such grants, including in the near future the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program and the Reconnecting Communities program; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Such funding would enable the City to make considerable investments towards achieving the goals set forth in the Boston Complete Streets initiative, Recharge Boston: Boston's Zero Emission Vehicle Program, the Vision Zero Boston Action Plan, the Imagine Boston 2030 Plan, and several other citywide initiatives; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Due to the short-term and competitive manner of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's funding opportunities, the City's administrative bodies will need to continue to act with urgency in order to evaluate which grants are most relevant to the City's needs and apply for them in a timely manner; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Several deadlines for funding opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have already passed, and several more will pass in the coming months; *and*
- WHEREAS:* The process of applying for the competitive grants provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will require extensive cooperation and coordination between several municipal agencies and bodies, including but not limited to

Administration & Finance, Boston Water and Sewer, the Environment Department, the Public Works Department, Boston Transportation Department, and Boston Public Development Agency, along with numerous state agencies and other bodies, such as the Metropolitan Area Planning Council; *and*

WHEREAS: The goals of the Boston Complete Streets initiative include embracing innovative designs and technologies to address climate change and promote active and healthy communities by building and maintaining more sustainable transportation networks; *and*

WHEREAS: The goals of Recharge Boston: Boston's Zero Emission Vehicle Program include supporting the widespread adoption of electrification, ensuring affordable and convenient access to charging infrastructure for all residents, and electrifying all municipal vehicles; *and*

WHEREAS: The goal of the Vision Zero Boston Action Plan is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious accidents in Boston through innovative changes in street designs and municipal policies; *and*

WHEREAS: The goals of the Imagine Boston 2030 Plan include making significant infrastructure investments in transformative technologies to reduce Boston's carbon emissions, improve neighborhood walkability, facilitate a shift in the City's modes of transit, reduce social inequity and economic inequality, and improve the health and safety of all Bostonians; *and*

WHEREAS: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance and execute on the City's plans in all these areas, as part of Boston's holistic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss opportunities for competitive federal infrastructure funding opportunities for the city of Boston included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including representatives and experts from Administration & Finance, Boston Water and Sewer, the Environment Department, the Public Works Department, Boston Transportation Department, Boston Public Development Agency, local community advocates, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: August 4, 2022