

Offered by Councilors Sharon Durkan, Tanya Fernandes Anderson, Baker, Breadon, Coletta, Flaherty, Mejia and Murphy



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM NEW EDGERLY ROAD INTO A PEDESTRIAN PLAZA

WHEREAS, The predominant road users throughout much of District 8 are pedestrians, and the City is committed to ensuring all modes of transportation are safe, including by enhancing and improving the pedestrian experience and pedestrian safety; *and*

WHEREAS, Fatal pedestrian crashes statewide increased by 35 percent between 2021 and 2022 according to a report by WalkBoston (WalkMassachusetts), an organization aimed at making walking safer and easier in Massachusetts to encourage better health, a cleaner environment, and more vibrant communities; *and*

WHEREAS, The City's Safety Surge aims to slow traffic on residential streets through installation of zones of speed humps on eligible neighborhood streets, the redesign of intersections for safety, and new guidelines for the City's traffic signals; *and*

WHEREAS, Vision Zero Boston is the Boston Transportation Department's commitment to focus the City's resources on proven strategies to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes in the city by 2030 by improving safety for all road users including the most vulnerable; *and*

WHEREAS, Centering walkability and pedestrian safety means more than just preventing crashes and pedestrian injuries; it also means pedestrian placemaking as a vital component of our transportation infrastructure, and an opportunity to foster community connection; *and*

WHEREAS, New Edgerly Road is a small, redundant slip-lane in the East Fenway, that hosts a high volume of pedestrian traffic compared to car traffic and specific traffic counts taken by Councilor Bok's office on a weekday evening found that, within

an hour, 51 individuals accessed the area by car and 413 individuals accessed the area on foot; *and*

WHEREAS, The Fenway Civic Association has long advocated for slow streets safety measures on neighborhood streets bounded by Hemenway Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Boylston Street, and Forsyth Way including the pedestrianization of New Edgerly Road; *and*

WHEREAS, Councilor Bok and the District 8 Office hosted three successful pedestrian pilots of this space between 2022 and 2023, which, through coordination with neighborhood organizations like the Fenway Civic Association, Fenway Community Development Corporation, and Fenway Community Center saw the street activated as a pedestrian plaza with musical performances, art installations, food, and games for hundreds to enjoy *and*

WHEREAS, Councilor Bok and the District 8 Office gathered public feedback on the proposed pedestrianization of New Edgerly Road that illuminated robust community support as demonstrated by over 100 letters of support for the proposal sent to Chief Jascha Franklin-Hodge and the majority of survey respondents outlining a preference for permanent pedestrianization of New Edgerly Road; *and*

WHEREAS, The abutting businesses and properties have been involved in the conversation to transform this roadway into a pedestrian plaza with the Boston Transportation Department and the District 8 Council Office and have been supportive of the effort; *and*

WHEREAS, Transforming this street space to plaza space would enhance the adjacent Harry Ellis Dickson Park, which the Fenway Civic Association has been the caretaker of since 2010, raising thousands of dollars for its care, implementing irrigation features, cleaning the public artwork, and collaborating with neighboring businesses to ensure the park is accessible and provides respite for neighbors; *and*

WHEREAS, Whereas permanent pedestrianization of New Edgerly Road is 1) widely supported by residents of the East Fenway; 2) expressly requested by the neighborhood civic association; and 3) perfectly aligned with the City's transportation goals; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the Boston City Council recognize the efforts of the community and the Boston Transportation Department in supporting the permanent pedestrianization of New Edgerly Road.

Filed on: October 16, 2023