

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY AND ED FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### Resolution in Support of Massachusetts House Bill 3731 (H.3731), "An Act to Enhance Pedestrian Safety"

**WHEREAS**, pedestrian safety remains a critical public health and safety concern in Boston with many residents facing dangerous conditions while navigating city sidewalks and streets; and

**WHEREAS**, pedestrian injuries and fatalities disproportionately affect vulnerable populations including seniors, children, and individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Boston City Councilor Erin Murphy has heard directly from residents who report frustration with current safety conditions and a lack of awareness around pedestrian injury claim processes including the low statutory cap and a restrictive 30-day deadline to file claims; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilor Murphy's own father, age 91, has fallen twice in recent months on cracked sidewalks outside his home; walking has been his ability to stay independent and he should feel safe; while we thank the first responders who quickly came to his aid, navigating sidewalks that are not in good repair is not just an inconvenience; for those who are elderly or have mobility issues this greatly limits their chances for connection and independence; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 3731, filed by Representative Jay D. Livingstone and currently under consideration by the Joint Committee on Transportation, proposes important reforms to enhance pedestrian safety statewide by improving infrastructure, raising awareness, and increasing protections for pedestrians; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Boston has actively pursued local measures to improve pedestrian safety including expanded sidewalk repairs, traffic calming initiatives, and community outreach programs; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration between local and state officials is essential to achieving safer, more accessible streets for all residents of Boston and Massachusetts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support for Massachusetts House Bill 3731, "An Act to Enhance Pedestrian Safety," and urges the Massachusetts Legislature to prioritize its swift passage; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Boston City Council encourages continued collaboration with state lawmakers including Representative Jay D. Livingstone to advance

comprehensive pedestrian safety measures benefiting all communities across the Commonwealth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Representative Jay D. Livingstone, the members of the Joint Committee on Transportation, and the Mayor of Boston.

**Filed in Council:** August 6, 2025