



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means

Tania Fernandes Anderson, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 7, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0764, Message and order for your approval an order authorizing the City of Boston to enter into one or more leases, lease-purchase or installment sales agreements in Fiscal Year 2024 in an amount not to exceed Thirty Nine Million Dollars (\$39,000,000.00). These funds are to be used by various City departments for the acquisition of equipment in furtherance of their respective governmental functions. The list of equipment includes: computer equipment (hardware and software), motor vehicles and trailers, ambulances, firefighting equipment, office equipment, telecommunications equipment, photocopying equipment, medical equipment, school and educational equipment, school buses, parking meters, street lighting installation, traffic signal equipment and equipment functionally related to, and components of the foregoing.

Docket #0767, Message and order for your approval an appropriation order in the amount of Six Hundred Fifty-Seven Million One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$657,110,000.00) for various capital improvement purposes for city departments including the Boston Center for Youth and Families, Department of Innovation and Technology, the Environment, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Police, Property Management, Public Works, and Transportation departments, Mayor's Office of Housing, Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Boston Public Library, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Planning and Development Agency, and the Boston Public Health Commission.

Docket #0768, Message and order authorizing an appropriation order in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Million One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$328,160,000.00) for various capital improvement purposes for the Boston Public Schools.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on April 12, 2023. The Committee has conducted a robust review process, including 28 public hearings on departmental budgets and 2 dedicated public testimony sessions, and has received written testimony from all City departments, as well as written, oral, and recorded testimony from the public.

These dockets represent authorizations for the FY24 Capital Budget, which help to fund the City's \$4.17 Billion FY24-28 Capital Plan. The projects funded by the Capital Budget have a significant impact on the quality of life for Boston's residents. They maintain and improve our infrastructure, enhance our mobility, ensure our safety, and provide necessary open space for both residents and

visitors to enjoy all that Boston has to offer, across Boston's neighborhoods. In addition to significant routine maintenance projects for facilities and assets, some highlights of the Capital Budget include:

Office of Arts & Culture

- Design, fabricate, and install custom interpretative signage for numerous artworks across the City.
- Design, fabricate, and install four bronze figures on four separate sites in Chinatown.
- Conduct a needs assessment, programming, and siting assessment for the development of a neighborhood-based facility that could support local events and activities and also sustain local cultural identities.
- Design fabrication, site preparation, and installation of the Coconut Grove memorial in Statler Park.
- Fabricate and install a bronze figure grouping and construct a plaza honoring Fedrick Douglass in Douglass Square.
- Complete fabrication and install a bronze memorial portrait of Justice Goursin and ten bas-relief portraits of African American veterans of wars from the American Revolution to the Iraq War.

Boston Centers for Youth and Families

- Develop a building program and assess siting options for a new community center in Allston/Brighton.
- Replace the existing pool, pool deck and pool filtration system, and renovate the existing bath house building at the BCYF Clougherty Pool.
- Design and construct a new community center based on the recent programming study for the BCYF Dorchester Community Center.
- Interior and exterior building renovations, including improvements to the athletic facilities, redesign of the front entrance, window and door replacements, and other upgrades to enable using the facility as a sheltering site year-round at the BCYF Hyde Park Community Center.
- Develop a design for a new North End Community Center.
- Interior and exterior building renovation, including improvements to athletic facilities, redesign of the front entrance, window and door replacements, and other facility upgrades to enable using the facility as a sheltering site year-round at the BCYF Roslindale Community Center.
- BCYF security and technology upgrades, including improvements to technology infrastructure and security systems, including cameras at all stand-alone sites.

Boston Fire Department

- Replace the department's current dive boat.
- Design and construct a new Fire Station for Engine 17.
- Programming and design for a new fire station to the existing Engine 18 station.
- Design and construct a new Engine 3 fire station.
- Design and construct a new Engine 37 fire station.
- Replace the "Damrell", the department's current 70-foot fire boat.
- Programming and design for a new firehouse located in the Seaport.
- Building renovations at the Boston Fire Department Headquarters, including a new roof, the installation of sprinklers, and an updated fire alarm system.

Boston Police Department

- Design and implement upgrades to the Police radio system.
- Replace HVAC and boiler system at the Police Academy.
- Programming study to evaluate space requirements for the District E-18 station.

- Software upgrades to enhance digital security at BPD locations.
- Replace the existing records management system.
- Capital maintenance at various BPD facilities, including exterior repairs.
- Design and installation of upgraded signage at BPD facilities.

Boston Planning and Development Agency

- Climate resilience improvements at the Raymond Flynn Marine Park
- Construction of a replacement bulkhead and jetty near Drydock 3, including demolition and removal of the existing South Jetty.
- Design and construction of improvements to the streets and sidewalks in the RLFMP to meet City standards, including sidewalk widening, ADA compliance, and multimodal transportation infrastructure.
- Design and engineering work for the resilience needs of South Boston and Seaport to advance the solutions outlined in Climate Ready Boston, specifically in the area of Wharf 8 and Pier 10 for improvements of existing waterfront structures.

Boston Public Health Commission

- Upgrade HVAC for improved heating, cooling, and ventilation systems at 201 River Street.
- Programming and site evaluation to support EMS facilities that better serve each community with Emergency Medical Services.
- Design and implement upgrades to the EMS radio system.
- Design and construction of a new EMS station in the Seaport.
- Programming and siting study for a Hyde Park area community health center.
- Repair and upkeep of buildings on Long Island that may be utilized in the development of the recovery campus.
- Replace the elevator and relocate the entryway to improve accessibility, security, and efficiency at the Woods Mullen Shelter.
- Renovate bathrooms and showers, and increase bed space at the Woods Mullen Shelter.
- Establish a disaster recovery site to increase disaster preparedness of BPHC's primary computer system infrastructure.

Boston Public Library

- Design and study of the implementation of the McKim Master Plan.
- Design and construct a new Chinatown Branch Library.
- Conduct a facility assessment and develop a building program to design and construct a new Codman Square Branch Library.
- Design and construct a new Egleston Square Branch Library.
- Faneuil Branch Library improvements, including improved accessibility, interior renovations, and refurbishment.
- Design and construct a new Fields Corner Branch Library.
- Design and construct a new Uphams Corner Branch Library.
- Design and construct a new West End Branch Library.
- Upgrade boiler, windows, roof, and facade repairs at the Hyde Park Branch Library.

Boston Public Schools

- Improve interior spaces at various schools to promote a 21st-century learning experience, including lighting, security, classroom technology, and wayfinding.
- Upgrade facilities at various schools to increase building accessibility, including improvements to ramps, doors, and elevators.

- Develop a building program and design for the construction of a new preK-6 school to be located on the site of the Jackson Mann School.
- Upgrade art rooms at various schools across the district.
- Repair and upgrade auditorium facilities at various schools, including lighting, seating, and sound equipment.
- Major renovations of the Cleveland School building, including repairs to the roof and building exterior.
- Purchase and install bus monitor technology to enhance transportation planning and operations.
- Renovate Brighton High School locker rooms.
- Repair masonry, windows, and doors at the Bradley School.
- Core maintenance work in various schools, including electrical, HVAC, masonry, and window repairs.
- Replace Boilers at Bates Elementary.
- Study to design a future school facility in East Boston
- Upgrade plumbing and fixtures to expand the availability of drinking water at various schools.
- General security and safety upgrades to the door alarms at various schools across the City.
- Upgrade the HVAC at the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School
- Improve landscaping, walkways, paving, outdoor lighting, and signage at various schools.
- Upgrade building facilities at the Irving School to facilitate grade reconfiguration.
- Develop a building program for the design and construction of a new preK-6 school.

Boston Transportation Department

- Expand the City's bike share network to connect neighborhoods that are further from frequent, reliable rail transit and support strong demand in employment centers and commercial hubs.
- Design transportation improvements in Bowdoin Street and Geneva Avenue in Dorchester.
- Transform several corridors citywide for rapid bus transit, including the construction of dedicated bus lanes on Summer Street, Boylston Street and St. James Street, and Clarendon Street.
- Design for traffic flow and safety improvements in Eagle Square.
- Study improvements and create a transportation action plan for the MBTA's JFK/UMass Station area.
- Roadway improvements from Shawmut Avenue to Harrison Avenue including six key Nubian Square intersections.
- Design and construct Neighborhood Slow Street zones throughout the City.
- Implement roadway design changes to reduce speeds, control movements, and improve the visibility of vulnerable users.
- Develop and test new mobility strategies that pertain to transportation demand management, electric vehicles, and neighborhood mobility hubs.
- Plan and design a transformation of three of Roxbury's central transportation corridors, Melnea Cass Blvd. Malcolm C Blvd., and Warren Street, into multimodal routes that center transit and active transportation.
- Purchase new parking meters and upgrade existing multi-space parking meters.

Department of Innovation and Technology

- Upgrade the front and back ends of the BOS:311 system to modernize the software architecture for improved security and provide usability and access improvements.
- Planning and design of a centralized collections system to maximize City revenue.
- Implement solutions to manage and mitigate cyber security risks.
- Invest in data analytic tools, technologies, and processes to empower data-driven management.
- Identify and procure IT solutions for City departments.

- Implement digital technology solutions that better engage residents with government.
- Begin work on creating a unified Identity and Access Management system for constituents of Boston to improve security and access to online Boston municipal services.

Environment Department

- Develop an Urban Wilds conservation and land management plan to establish criteria to prioritize future capital renovations, land acquisition, and management priorities for existing properties.
- Support the development of a study that will examine the feasibility of measures along and within the Boston Harbor to reduce the vulnerability of coastal flooding due to sea level rise caused by climate change.
- Climate resilience planning for City neighborhoods and municipal facilities affected by climate change.
- Design services to enhance the energy efficiency of municipal capital assets.
- Design of connection walking paths to Moakley Park from adjacent neighborhoods
- Clean up debris, manage invasive species, and build trails to restore wetland habitat and create usable open space at the Mattahunt Woods Preservation.

Mayor's Office of Housing

- An investment that supports the redevelopment of the Bunker Hill Housing Development. The initial phase includes 236 affordable units, and, over the life of the project, will produce 1,010 affordable units.
- Upgrade elderly /disabled public housing units in several BHA communities, including Saint Botolph in the South End, the Doris Bunte Apartments in Egleston Square, and Patricia White in Brighton.
- City funding for Phase 3 consists of 123 units of housing, a gateway park, and a community center in Orient Heights.
- Phase One of the Mary Ellen McCormack redevelopment which comprises 1,365 units of new mixed-income housing (572 of which are affordable replacement units), 69,000 sq. ft. of community and retail space, 2.3 acres of open space, and approx. 520 parking spaces.

Office of Emergency Management

- A programming and siting study for the development of an emergency operations center.

Parks and Recreation Department

- Design of park improvements, including upgrades to artificial turf, sports lighting, basketball court, playgrounds, splash pad, spectator seating, and accessibility at Ceylon Park.
- Develop a design for a comprehensive park renovation for Clifford Playground.
- Implementation of the redesign of Codman Square Park.
- Design and construction of Coppens Square park improvements, including the replacement of the Mayor Theodore Lyman fountain that was removed in 1951.
- Upgrade park field lights at various locations, including Hemenway Park and Fallon Field.
- Improvements to the Dudley Town Common to support the use of this neighborhood "Common" for gathering and civic uses.
- Mill and replace existing paved walkways in Dorchester Park
- Expand dog recreation facilities throughout the City.
- Feasibility study to develop the needs of the Elma Lewis Playhouse.
- Develop a master plan that will enhance historic Franklin Park as a keystone park in the geographical heart of the City.
- Design and construction of comprehensive renovations at Malcolm X Park.

- Renovation to an active recreation parking, including a full basketball court, cafe tables, and four exercise stations at the Quincy Street Play Area.
- Develop a comprehensive park master plan that will guide future capital investments at Town Field.

Property Management

- Programming study and building assessment of 1010 Mass. Ave.
- Renovate building to improve the roof, new windows, masonry repair, and upgrade the interior at 26 Court Street.
- Roof replacement at 43 Hawkins Street.
- Design and implement HVAC and building repairs to the Boston Animal Shelter facility.
- Replace air handling units in City Hall.
- Continued phased plaza improvements that will expand accessibility on the South City Hall Plaza and the Dock Square Garage.
- Study to assess capital improvements.

Public Works

- Install or reconstruct pedestrian ramps to conform to current ADA and Architectural Access Board regulations.
- Design and construct sidewalk and/or streetscape improvements on Boylston Street.
- Ongoing repairs at various City-owned bridges as needed to bring the portfolio of 40 bridges to a state of good repair. This includes proactive maintenance and annual maintenance.
- Improve the condition of sidewalks in Chinatown.
- Reconstruct roads, make traffic improvements, install new pedestrian ramps, enhance bike access, install new tree plantings, and improve lighting from River Street in Mattapan Square to Harvard Street.
- Develop a master plan to create an active, green transportation corridor along Columbia Road that connects Franklin Park and the waterfront via the Emerald Necklace.
- Conduct a building assessment to determine what infrastructure is needed for fleet electrification.
- Extend median on Hyde Park Avenue at Neponset Avenue and Florian Street.
- Design and construct a new bridge from Moon Island to Long Island and demolish and remove the former bridge.
- Redesign Massachusetts Avenue between Melnea Cass Boulevard and Theodore Glynn Way for safety improvements that improve walking, biking, and public transit access.
- Design and construction of a new bridge that will replace the existing structure.
- Various brick sidewalk and pedestrian ramp repairs.
- Implement a system-wide structural assessment on all City street lighting infrastructure.
- Sidewalk improvement program designed to target key neighborhood streets
- Reconstruct roads and sidewalks in the Whittier Street housing development.

City Council Proposed Recommendations

- \$250,000 to Boston Public Schools for a High Schools Study
- \$100,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department for a Ross Field Design Study
- \$100,000 to the Office of Worker Empowerment for a Workforce Resource Center Design Study

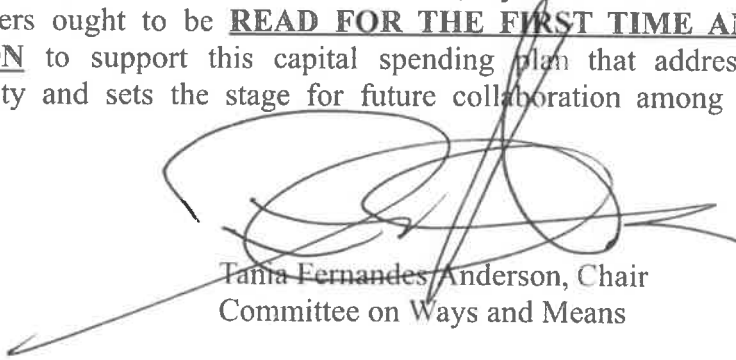
From Councilor Anderson:

- \$400,000 - for a Franklin Park bandshell.
- \$837,000 - for outdoor healing center in Roxbury.
- \$940,000 - for an Outdoor theater in Roxbury.

- \$2,339,000 - for a Youth Game Park in Roxbury.
- \$678,500 - for a Senior Recreational Garden in Roxbury.
- \$157,000 - for a multi-generational outdoor recreational food court in Roxbury
- \$1,343,250 - for a business incubator, the “Boxbury” in Roxbury.
- \$783,250- for a food gathering space in Roxbury.
- \$1,000,000 - for a Malcolm X Statue in Roxbury.
- \$1,500,000 - for an outdoor youth science experiential learning space.
- \$750,000 - for an apple orchard space in Dorchester.
- \$1,200,000 - for a sensory garden for children on the spectrum in Roxbury.
- \$800,000 - for a vocational tech rec center for children 12 and under (in an already existing BCYF space in Mission Hill).
- \$2,500,000 - for the renovation of an existing BPS property to create a Black Boys and Youth Leadership Academy for at-risk black boys and youth for therapeutic services and academic support.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters ought to be **READ FOR THE FIRST TIME AND ASSIGNED FOR FURTHER ACTION** to support this capital spending plan that addresses important investments throughout the City and sets the stage for future collaboration among the Administration and the City Council.



Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means