

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND
TWENTY-FIVE**

**RESOLUTION FOR THE TIMELY RELEASE AND REVIEW OF FINAL
TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND ALTERNATIVE
PUBLIC PLANS FOR WHITE STADIUM PRIOR TO FURTHER
DEMOLITION WORK**

- WHEREAS,*** The renovation of White Stadium represents a critical opportunity to ensure that public investments address the needs of Boston Public Schools (BPS) student-athletes and the surrounding community while maintaining transparency, equity, and collaboration; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** The proposed \$200 million public-private partnership to renovate White Stadium has raised significant concerns regarding the transparency of the planning process, the equitable distribution of costs and benefits, and the lack of meaningful community engagement; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Two City Council hearings held on January 22, 2025, highlighted overwhelming concerns from community members, many of whom stated that the community engagement process has been inadequate and insufficiently responsive to the needs and voices of Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and other historically impacted neighborhoods that have disproportionately borne the burdens of urban development projects; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** There is currently no finalized plan for transportation, parking, or climate resilience to address key issues such as traffic congestion, accessibility, pedestrian safety, and the loss of trees. The absence of a comprehensive strategy—including accessible public transit options, sustainable mobility solutions, and clear commitments to preserving or replacing trees—has heightened concerns about potential adverse impacts on densely populated neighborhoods; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Public frustration has been exacerbated by engagement practices that limit opportunities for genuine input, such as restrictive public meetings that prioritize presentations over dialogue, impose strict time constraints on

comments, and restrict digital participation features, therefore undermining trust and collaboration; *and*

WHEREAS, BPS student-athletes are already experiencing significant barriers to accessing sports facilities, including delayed or absent buses that prevent them from attending practices and games, and no clear transportation plan has been presented to ensure reliable and equitable access to White Stadium for students; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Council approved and authorized up \$50 million for the White Stadium renovation as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 2024 Capital Budget for the White Stadium renovation, but the City's cost burden estimate has since more than doubled to \$100 million, and the renewed borrowing expenditure has not yet been brought to the City Council for review or approval, with the next Capital Budget vote scheduled for June 2025; *and*

WHEREAS, Many community members have expressed frustration with the City's singular focus on the current public-private partnership plan and the lack of alternative renovation models, leaving significant questions about whether a fully public option could better meet the needs of students and the community while ensuring fiscal responsibility; *and*

WHEREAS, White Stadium is a long-overlooked public asset that requires urgent investment to provide modern facilities for BPS students and the community, but this project must be done in a manner that prioritizes public benefit, equity, and sustainability; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council calls for an immediate pause on White Stadium demolition and construction until the City finalizes comprehensive transportation, parking, and climate resilience plans; releases a fully public renovation option; and addresses concerns related to community engagement and transparency to ensure investments in White Stadium benefit all Boston residents equitably.

Filed in Council: January 29, 2025