## OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



## **CITY OF BOSTON**

## IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

## RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A STUDY TO EVALUATE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRIC SHUTTLE BUS PROGRAM TO CONNECT BUSINESS DISTRICTS ACROSS BOSTON

- *WHEREAS*, Boston's diverse business districts uniquely contribute to the local economy and community well-being. With a rich mix of businesses, including clothing, cuisine, and various services, they play a vital role in fostering economic growth and enhancing residents' livelihoods; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, Creating an electric shuttle bus program between districts can be a strategically advantageous initiative with multiple benefits for the economy, local businesses, and cultural integration; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, Local shuttle bus programs that connect different business districts within a city or region are relatively common, and many cities have implemented such services to enhance local transportation options.
- *WHEREAS*, There is a growing imperative to address environmental concerns and reduce carbon emissions within the city; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, Recognizing the persistent challenges within Boston's transportation infrastructure, the implementation of an electric shuttle bus program between districts presents a viable solution to alleviate existing transportation issues, fostering a more sustainable and efficient urban mobility framework; *and*
- WHEREAS, An electric shuttle bus program would improve accessibility between districts, making it easier for residents, tourists, and workers to move seamlessly between different business districts or squares. This increased mobility can lead to more foot traffic and potential customers for local businesses; and

- *WHEREAS*, A shuttle bus program enhances cultural exchange by connecting diverse districts, allowing people from various backgrounds to explore and appreciate the city's cultural offerings, events, and businesses. This fosters unity and community while serving as a practical solution to support commerce by connecting consumers with a broader range of goods and services, promoting a dynamic marketplace that supports local businesses and entrepreneurs; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, Said system of shuttles could become an opportunity to connect various communities that normally don't interact, allowing for forms of cultural and business exchange and commerce, hence acting as a bridge to mutual understanding and growth amongst all our people; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, A system connecting patrons from Nubian Square to Beacon Hill and vice versa, allowing each community to partake in the businesses, restaurants, salons, and clothing stores of their respective districts alleviating traffic congestion and parking challenges in business districts, making it more convenient for customers to visit without the hassle of finding parking. This can contribute to a more enjoyable and stress-free shopping or dining experience; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, Additionally, the possibility of patrons from Dorchester commuting to Chinatown to partake in a variety of cuisine encourages community engagement by bringing people together from different neighborhoods. Events and promotions can be organized around the shuttle service, fostering a sense of community and shared identity; *and*
- *WHEREAS*, These examples speak to the essential possibilities for a shuttle bus program that can to positively impact the economy, support cultural integration, and benefit business owners by providing convenient transportation options, fostering economic growth, and creating a more connected and vibrant community; *NOW*, **THEREFORE BE IT**
- **RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council hereby formally declares its support, on the record, for the initiation of a study aimed at evaluating the legal and operational feasibility of establishing shuttle bus routes connecting various business districts within the city.

Filed on February 12, 2025