



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, ED FLYNN, JOHN FITZGERALD, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, LOUIJEUNE, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

EMERGENCY HEARING ORDER REGARDING CHRONIC SCHOOL BUS DELAYS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION FAILURES

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools provides transportation to over twenty thousand students across the city each day, and concerns regarding chronic and excessive bus delays have been ongoing and are not new to the district; and

WHEREAS, families, educators, and community members continue to report transportation failures affecting schools across multiple neighborhoods, and the volume and repetition of these communications have significantly increased, prompting the filing of this emergency hearing order; and

WHEREAS, at one Boston high school, buses have reportedly arrived hours after dismissal, forcing students to remain at school into the evening on a recurring basis; and

WHEREAS, in another neighborhood, a regularly assigned elementary school bus route has reportedly arrived more than one hour late on multiple days per week, including a recent delay of approximately one hour and eighteen minutes at pickup; and

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate that at another high school, door to door transportation for special education students, including a student who uses a wheelchair, had not arrived more than two hours after dismissal, leaving students at school until after 6:00 p.m. for a 3:35 p.m. release; and

WHEREAS, such delays leave students at school well beyond normal hours, force teachers and school staff, who are not contractually required to remain, to stay on site to ensure student safety, and leave many families without safe or practical transportation alternatives when parents and guardians are at work or do not have access to a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, extended delays after dismissal disrupt family schedules and routinely cause students to miss afterschool programs, sports practices, tutoring, dance classes, and, for many high school students, paid work shifts they rely on; and

WHEREAS, these examples are illustrative of a broader and ongoing pattern of transportation unreliability across the district; and

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools allocates approximately \$189 million annually for student transportation, representing a significant public investment that must result in safe and dependable service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold an emergency hearing to examine chronic school bus delays within Boston Public Schools, including special education and door to door transportation services, extended post dismissal wait times, and the districtwide impact of repeated transportation failures on students, families, and school staff.

Filed on: February 11, 2026