

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MBTA INCLUDING SIDEWALK SNOW CLEARANCE IN ITS UPCOMING COMMUTER RAIL OPERATOR CONTRACT

WHEREAS, Snow clearance of sidewalks at MBTA stations, especially commuter rail-only stations such as those along the Fairmount Line, has been particularly slow after storms this winter, with many residents reporting unshoveled sidewalks for weeks; *and*

WHEREAS, The snow clearance of these stations has been a years-long problem that forces commuters over snowbanks and into streets, while leaving persons with disabilities trapped and unable to navigate any path forward; *and*

WHEREAS, Snow clearance on station sidewalks was not included in Keolis' current contract with the MBTA as a commuter rail operator, meaning clearance would fall to the city or state; *and*

WHEREAS, In the most recent storm, the state utilized the National Guard to clear MBTA bus stops and stations, a move that shows how far out of its scope of operations snow clearance is; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's Public Works department is already responsible for plowing hundreds of miles of roads in the city, as well as helping to clear other municipal properties, and adding duties that should fall to the MBTA are best left to the state or the commuter rail operator; *and*

WHEREAS, The MBTA is in the process of selecting an operator from a pool of three prospective operators, including Keolis, and finalizing a contract with an operator by the end of 2026; *and*

WHEREAS, It is imperative that the state and MBTA include responsibility of sidewalk snow clearance at commuter rail stations in the scope of the upcoming commuter rail contract, so as to ensure Boston residents and commuters can safely navigate our sidewalks; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council stands in support of the state including sidewalk snow clearance in its upcoming commuter rail operator contract, ensuring Boston residents and commuters can safely navigate sidewalks after snowstorms.

Filed on: February 27, 2026