

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, JULIA MEJIA,
COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE
OPTIONS FOR THE CENTER RUNNING BUS LANE ON
BLUE HILL AVENUE AND COLUMBUS AVENUE

- WHEREAS,** The residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and the South End are deeply invested in the welfare and prosperity of their communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The proposed addition of a middle lane on Blue Hill Ave and similar projects on Columbus Ave have raised concerns among residents and local businesses; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The proposed lane alterations have generated overwhelming opposition from the community, threatening to disrupt daily lives and economic stability; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Community members have expressed strong opposition to shutting down the street through Franklin Park and the prospect of shutting down Circuit Drive; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The reduction in parking availability for essential services, churches, small businesses, and challenges in parking for families with children and groceries are significant concerns; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The proposed changes may disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including large families relying on cars for transportation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Roxbury and Mattapan are identified as Boston's most vulnerable neighborhoods, according to the Boston Public Health Commission; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The proposed projects do not address pressing issues such as affordable housing or quality education, further exacerbating existing challenges faced by the community; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The community has urged city officials and planners to reconsider the proposed projects by changing the plan to the side bus lane as opposed to the center bus lane concept and prioritize initiatives that genuinely enhance quality of life, such as improving public transport accessibility and investing in education and green spaces; *and*

WHEREAS, The residents of Columbus Avenue, also in Roxbury, express similar concerns and advocate for dedicated side lanes as an alternative solution; *and*

WHEREAS, To address the concerns raised by the residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan regarding the proposed lane alterations on Blue Hill Ave. and Columbus Ave. respectively; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That city officials, planners, community representatives, and relevant stakeholders shall be invited to provide testimony and engage in dialogue regarding the proposed projects and alternative solutions. That research and evidence regarding the efficiency and impact of dedicated side lanes versus center running bus lanes relative to similar sized neighborhoods shall be presented and considered during the hearing. That the hearing held in community shall provide an opportunity for all voices to be heard and for equitable urban planning solutions to be explored. That the findings and recommendations from the hearing shall be considered by the relevant authorities in the decision-making process regarding the proposed lane alterations.

Filed on February 12, 2025