

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER & ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS MAKING NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS SAFER FOLLOWING THE 30-DAY REVIEW OF STREETS PROJECTS IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, On May 22, 2023, Mayor Michelle Wu and Chief of Streets Jascha Franklin-Hodge announced a new approach to addressing street safety across the City; *and*

WHEREAS, The new street safety program, dubbed the Safety Surge Initiative, revamped the City's approach to installing speed humps, among other things. Rather than having neighborhoods apply for speed humps in their area, the neighborhood speed humps program allowed the City to proactively plan, design and build ten speed hump zones each year; *and*

WHEREAS, The former Neighborhood Slow Streets Initiative pit neighborhoods against neighborhoods and was a lengthy process for residents. According to Chief Franklin-Hodge, the Safety Surge Initiative policy would provide a more equitable distribution of traffic safety measures by designating speed humps as part of the City's standard street design; *and*

WHEREAS, The intent of the Safety Surge Initiative was to use crash data to prevent accidents and injuries by prioritizing the most at-risk areas for speed humps. The City, however, is revising its approach to installing safety enhancements, including speed humps and bike lane; *and*

WHEREAS, On February 21, 2025, the City announced it was undergoing a 30-day review of safety and transit improvements made over the past three years. A memo was produced on April 2, 2025, acknowledging "that the communication and community engagement process for Streets projects can be improved to build community trust and achieve better outcomes"; *and*

WHEREAS, Community members and advocates have continued to urge the City to pursue popular road safety infrastructure projects aimed at reducing vehicle speeds and safety for road users of all modes including speed humps, separated bike lanes, daylighting, and intersection redesigns; *and*

WHEREAS, Neighborhood associations, community organizations, and advocates are still seeking clarity on what an enhanced communication and community process will look like while continuing to take a data-driven approach to planning, developing and implementing safety plans for our streets; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss how planning and transportation decisions will be implemented within the Safety Surge Initiative following the 30-day review and how residents can expect these changes to impact the planning for speed humps and other important transportation safety infrastructure moving forward. Representatives from the Streets Cabinet, traffic engineers, transportation experts and transportation planning professionals will be invited to participate.

Filed on: January 28, 2026