



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY PROCESS FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** Ensuring the smooth operation and safety of our city streets is one of the most important issues facing our city, as transportation is not only about getting residents from one place to another efficiently, but it also touches upon pedestrian safety, access to opportunities, and resiliency; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Transportation planning is therefore a critical undertaking from the city, and the configuration of our streets can have deep impact on the quality of life and safety of our residents; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There have been major transportation planning and street redesign projects in various neighborhoods across the city in recent years, including State Street near the Wharf District, both Berkeley Street and Copley Connect in Back Bay, Tremont Street in the South End, the Summer Street Bus Pilot in the South Boston Waterfront, among others; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many constituents, businesses, and neighborhood civic associations have expressed concerns about the community process for these street redesigns, with many noting that there is a general lack of any in-person community meetings or communication about changes, and some not knowing planned changes after it was announced. Many also felt that their voices were not heard, and that the outcome of the redesign have already been decided before public input was heard; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents and local businesses who live in a neighborhood and pay taxes should have a say in what takes place there, gets changed, and piloted in the community. The institutional knowledge, lived experience, and feedback of residents in the City of Boston and our civic organizations is critical, and should be seriously considered before any decisions are made; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Aside from street redesigns, at the same time, our neighborhoods see an increase in the usage of mopeds, electric scooters up to 25 miles per hour, and other micro-mobility devices from third party delivery drivers and residents which do not require licenses and can pose safety challenges, speeding along streets often through stop signs and red lights, or the wrong way, and sometimes navigating between vehicles. The emergence of this new mode of transportation also need planning from the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Boston Transportation Department and the Boston Planning and Development Agency need to have robust discussions and community meetings in the neighborhoods of Boston as they engage in roadway redesign and traffic planning, and they need to take into account the institutional knowledge and feedback from those who will be most impacted; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss transportation planning and the community engagement process. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, the Boston Planning and Development Agency, neighborhood associations, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: February 14, 2024