



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE AND FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF TRANSDDEV SAFETY RECORDS AND CALLING FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools transports approximately 19,000 students each school day, and the City of Boston has a fundamental responsibility to ensure that every child is transported safely, reliably, and with full public accountability; and

WHEREAS, Transdev serves as the contracted operator of Boston Public Schools buses and is responsible for hiring, training, and managing the drivers who transport Boston students; and

WHEREAS, A June 2026 investigation by WBUR and ProPublica identified at least 60 fatal crashes involving Transdev-operated buses nationwide between 2016 and 2025, yet only 18 appeared under Transdev's name in the federal safety database, and the fatal April 28, 2025 crash that killed five-year-old Boston Public Schools kindergarten student Lens Joseph was not attributed to Transdev in the company's federal safety record; and

WHEREAS, The investigation also identified at least 71 serious crashes involving Transdev-operated Boston Public Schools buses during that period, with none appearing under Transdev's name in the company's federal safety record; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relies on crash and inspection data to identify transportation companies that may require investigation or enforcement, and when crashes are missing, incorrectly attributed, or recorded under another entity's name, regulators, contracting agencies, school districts, elected officials, and the public may be unable to evaluate a company's complete safety history; and

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools, state education officials, and the City of Boston should not rely solely on a federal safety record that does not accurately connect serious and fatal crashes to the contractor responsible for hiring, training, and supervising the drivers involved; and

WHEREAS, The Council has repeatedly raised concerns regarding Boston Public Schools transportation safety, driver hiring and training, crash reporting, oversight of Transdev, and the lack of complete and meaningful answers provided to families and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, On July 17, 2026, I sent a letter to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requesting an independent state review of Boston Public Schools transportation safety and oversight, citing concerns about Transdev's safety history, the number of serious crashes involving Boston school buses, the accuracy of federal records, and whether the full extent of these safety problems had been disclosed; and

WHEREAS, United States Senators Edward J. Markey and Maria Cantwell have requested answers and Transdev-specific crash and inspection records from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, reinforcing the concerns raised in the July 17, 2026 letter and demonstrating the need for complete, independent, and transparent answers regarding Transdev's safety history; and

WHEREAS, Boston families should not be expected to accept general assurances of safety when available records fail to identify dozens of serious and fatal crashes involving the company entrusted with transporting their children; and

WHEREAS, Protecting Boston students requires accurate records, independent review, full transparency, and coordinated action at the local, state, and federal levels; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council supports the request for the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct independent oversight and review of Boston Public Schools transportation safety, Transdev's safety record, crash reporting, and the adequacy of BPS oversight; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council supports United States Senators Edward J. Markey and Maria Cantwell in their call for complete answers and Transdev-specific crash and inspection records from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Filed in Council: August 5th, 2026