



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**MICHELLE WU**

September 30, 2024

**TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to apply for, and then accept and expend a RAISE Grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The City of Boston's award will not exceed \$20,000,000 in funding from the RAISE Grant for the Roxbury Resilient Transportation Corridors project. Led by the Boston Transportation Department, the City will partner with local residents, community organizations and consultants to apply the fund toward planning, designing and constructing improvements on Warren Street, Malcolm X Boulevard, and Melnea Cass Boulevard in Roxbury.

The upcoming work will strive for a comprehensive solution that integrates affordable housing, prevents displacement, reduces heat island effects, contributes to a thriving small business community, and supports local artists. The three corridors are the primary roadways of the Roxbury neighborhood, the heart of the Black community in Boston. Today, they are detracting from quality of life in the area. The wide, auto-centric thoroughfares of Melnea Cass Boulevard, Malcolm X Boulevard, and Warren Street are a result of eminent domain and block clearance during Boston's urban renewal era of the 1960s.

The project will be focused on reconstruction of the three aforementioned corridors, with extensive community engagement, planning, design and engineering work ahead of construction. Some key principles informing this work will include improving the quality of life and safety for residents, proactively including approaches for climate resilience, addressing traffic concerns, and prioritizing public transit and non-vehicular modes of travel. This project will ultimately address the historic legacy of inequities in investment experience in Roxbury, where the corridors are located.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order as soon as possible so that the City of Boston may proceed with the execution of the RAISE Grant.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

