

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, COLETTA ZAPATA,
BREADON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPEN, SANTANA,
WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES AND REPAINTING OF SUMMER STREET AS THE BUS LANE PILOT ENDED IN SEPTEMBER 2024

- WHEREAS:** In the Fall of 2023, Boston Transportation Department made street design changes for the Summer Street Multimodal Corridor Pilot to include a bus and truck lane between South Boston and South Station, with signs and paint that were visibly placed on the street in September 2023. However, due to a lack of clear communication, the official launch of the Pilot subsequently took place in December 2023; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Prior to installation, an overwhelming number of residents in South Boston called attention to the potential for unintended consequences of the Pilot and its overall fit for the entire corridor at community meetings, including serious concerns on the impacts to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Conley Terminal, the Flynn Marine Industrial Park, and surrounding hotels and businesses. During the Pilot, residents continued to provide significant feedback regarding increased unpredictability on the road and traffic times, along with the creation of areas of congestion that did not previously exist. This included traffic backing up while waiting for turns at Summer Street and D Street in several directions, as well as blocked intersections; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In September 2024, the City announced abruptly that the Summer Street Bus Lane Pilot had ended due to it not working as intended, and that the bus lane had only improved peak bus trips by 15-30 seconds. It has been over 8 months since the Summer Street Bus Pilot has ended, however, the painting on the street and solid white lines still remain, and many constituents remain confused about the status with "Bus Only" still painted at Summer Street and Dorchester Avenue near the United States Post Service (USPS) office.*and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents continue to question whether the bus lane Pilot has officially ended, and if it is illegal to turn right from Summer Street onto Melcher Street because of the lines and the bus lane. Moreover, others continue to post on social media about whether new MBTA regulations aimed at bus lane enforcement, with fines up to \$125, will be applicable to Summer Street, despite the Pilot having ended in September of 2024; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Despite initial conversations with Boston Transportation when the Summer Street Bus Pilot ended, BTM has not provided an update with regard to the repainting of Summer Street since. Given these issues, the Summer Street Bus Lane should be repainted to minimize any confusion for residents and visitors; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss repainting the Summer Street Bus Lane in South Boston. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, Boston Planning Department, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: May 7, 2025