



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means

Brian Worrell, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 5, 2024

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0676, Message and order for your approval an appropriation order in the amount of One Hundred Eighty Million Seven Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$184,780,000.00) for various capital improvement purposes for city departments including the Boston Center for Youth and Families, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Planning and Development Agency, Boston Public Library, Environment, Fire, Mayor's Office of Housing, Office of Arts and Culture, Parks and Recreation, Police, Property Management, Public Works, and the Transportation Departments.

Docket #0677, Message and order authorizing an appropriation order in the amount of Two Hundred Forty Million Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$240,375,000.00) for various capital improvement purposes for the Boston Public Schools.

Docket #0678, Message and order for your approval an order authorizing the City of Boston to enter into one or more leases, lease-purchase or installment sales agreements in Fiscal Year 2025 in an amount not to exceed Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000.00). These funds are to be used by various City departments for the acquisition of equipment in furtherance of their respective governmental functions. The list of equipment includes: computer equipment (hardware and software), motor vehicles and trailers, ambulances, firefighting equipment, office equipment, telecommunications equipment, photocopying equipment, medical equipment, school and educational equipment, school buses, parking meters, street lighting installation, traffic signal equipment and equipment functionally related to, and components of the foregoing.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on April 10, 2024. The Committee has conducted a robust review process, including 31 public hearings on departmental budgets, 6 working sessions and 2 dedicated public testimony sessions, and has received written testimony from all City departments, as well as written, oral, and recorded testimony from the public.

These dockets represent authorizations for the FY25 Capital Budget, which help to fund the City's \$4.7 Billion FY25-29 Capital Plan. The projects funded by the Capital Budget have a significant impact on the quality of life for Boston's residents. They maintain and improve our infrastructure, enhance our mobility, ensure our safety, and provide necessary open space for both residents and visitors to enjoy all that Boston has to offer, across Boston's neighborhoods. In addition to significant routine maintenance projects for facilities and assets, some highlights of the Capital Budget include:

Office of Arts and Culture

- Fabricate and install a bronze sculpture of books for the entrance of the Mattapan Branch Library.
- Fabricate and install a bronze figure grouping and construct a plaza honoring Frederick Douglass in Douglass Square.
- Design, fabricate, and install four bronze figures on four separate sites in the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston.
- Design, fabricate, and install custom interpretative signage for numerous artworks across the City.
- Select an artist who will design and manage the fabrication and installation of a new artwork to be installed on the site formerly occupied by the Emancipation Group statue in Park Plaza.
- Design, fabrication, site preparation, and installation of public art in Statler Park.

Boston Centers for Youth and Families

- Improvements to technology infrastructure and security systems including cameras at all stand-alone BCYF sites.
- Design and construct a new North End Community Center.
- Renovate and upgrade locker rooms and pools including filtration systems, pool liners, and dehumidification and HVAC systems at various BCYF/BPS pool facilities.
- Develop a building program and assess siting options for a new community center in Allston/Brighton.
- Renovations to the Tobin Community Center, including accessibility improvements and AC work in the gym space.
- Climate resilience improvements at the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park.
- Design and construct a new community center based on the recent programming study for the Dorchester Community Center.

Boston Public Library (BPL)

- Design and construct a new Chinatown branch library that supports the needs of the neighborhood and reflects Boston Public Library's Compass Principles.
- Conduct a facility assessment and develop a building program that reflects the BPL's Compass Principles and supports the needs of the neighborhood. Design and construct a new Codman Square branch library.
- Perform a study on the condition of the facades of the Johnson and McKim buildings and make repairs as needed.
- Design and construct a new Uphams Corner branch library that supports the needs of the neighborhood and reflects Boston Public Library's Compass Principles.
- Upgrade and replace mechanical systems, windows, roof, and waterproof facade at the Connolly Branch Library, windows, roof, and waterproof facade. Assess space programming.

Office of Housing

- Investment that supports the redevelopment of the Bunker Hill Housing Development. The initial phase includes 236 affordable units and over the life of the project will produce 1,010 affordable units.
- Upgrade elderly/disabled public housing units in several BHA communities including Saint Botolph in the South End, the Doris Bunte Apartments in Egleston Square, and Patricia White in Brighton.
- Renovate existing BHA housing units including plumbing, ventilation, windows, and other building repairs.

- Phase One of the Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment comprises 1,365 units of new mixed-income housing (572 of which are affordable replacement units), 69,000 sq. ft. of community and retail space, 2.3 acres of open space, and approx. 520 parking spaces.
- The Mildred C. Hailey Redevelopment project will consist of a total of ~690 apartments which will include the 1-to-1 replacement of the existing 253 public housing units and the construction of ~435 new affordable and upper middle-income apartments.

Parks and Recreation Department

- Develop a new Animal Shelter building program and assess siting options.
- Rehabilitate pathways at the Back Bay Fens to improve accessibility and site conditions.
- Design a comprehensive Billings Field park renovation including fields, courts, and other park infrastructure.
- Develop a Boston Common master plan to bring the nation's oldest public park to the level of excellence commensurate with its historical importance and use by the City's residents and visitors.
- Revitalize the Boston Common playground including new play equipment, safety surfacing and site furnishings.
- Implementation of redesign of Codman Square Park.
- Design and construction of Coppens Square park improvements including replacement of the Mayor Theodore Lyman fountain that was removed in 1951.
- Expand dog recreation facilities throughout the City.
- Develop designs for converting the Franklin Park White Stadium field to artificial turf, track improvements, and other site work outside the stadium to better integrate the facility into the Franklin Park environment.
- Reprogram Geneva Cliffs from an Urban Wild to a city park with playground, passive seating, walking paths, and accessible entrances.
- Reconstruct and renovate two cricket fields, sports field lighting, pedestrian lighting, and related improvements at Harambe Park.
- Design a new operations and maintenance building as part of Phase I Moakley Park improvements.
- Ball field renovations including irrigation, site utilities, seating, backstop, fencing, and site furnishings at Ramsey Park.
- Ringer Park design of recommendations from the master plan.
- Feasibility study to develop the needs of the Elma Lewis Playhouse.
- Renovate Ronan Park including full upper terrace, playground, safety surfacing, water play, paving, entrances, and basketball courts.

Property Management

- Install new backup generator and high density shelving for City archives. Upgrade HVAC to optimize building conditions for long term storage. Relocate the Archeology Department.
- Renovate 26 Court Street building to improve envelope (roof, new windows, masonry repair) and upgrade interior.
- Replace HVAC system at the Veronica Smith Senior Center.

Boston Fire Department

- Design and construct a new Engine 17 fire station.
- Design and construct a new Engine 3 fire station.
- Design and construct a new Engine 37 fire station.

- Building renovations at the Boston Fire Department Headquarters including a new roof, and the installation of sprinklers and an updated fire alarm system. Accessibility improvements are also planned.
- Programming and design for a new firehouse located in the Seaport.
- Purchase a new harbor patrol boat to replace the department's boat named the Norman Knight.

Boston Transportation Department

- Construct the Arboretum Gateway Path, which will create new entrances to the Arnold Arboretum and extend the Blackwell path south to Roslindale Square. The first phase includes a new entrance at the end of Arboretum Road.
- Expand city's bike share network to connect neighborhoods that are further from frequent, reliable rail transit and support strong demand in employment centers and commercial hubs.
- Upgrades to Blossom Street including upgraded lighting, geometric changes for pedestrian safety, roadway resurfacing, and pavement markings including bicyclist accommodations.
- Design and construct safety improvements to various traffic signals throughout the City.
- Planning Mission Hill for pedestrian improvements.
- Implement roadway design changes to reduce speeds, control movements, and improve the visibility of vulnerable users.
- Design and construct Neighborhood Slow Street zones throughout the City.
- Replace portions of City's bikeshare system, including docks, kiosks and bikes.
- Advance planning and design for a Go Boston 2030 priority project that would extend the Southwest Corridor, via on-street bike facilities, to connect with major destinations in Downtown and Beacon Hill.

Public Works Department

- Reconstruct road, sidewalks, and lighting from Amory Street to the end and also sidewalk and safety improvements at intersection of Canterbury Street, Neponset Ave., and Bourne Street.
- Design and construct sidewalk and/or streetscape improvements on Boylston Street.
- Ongoing repairs at various City-owned bridges as needed to bring the portfolio of 40 bridges to a state of good repair. This includes proactive maintenance and annual maintenance.
- Design and reconstruct Commonwealth Ave. from Packard's Corner to Kelton Street, with the addition of a cycle track. State construction funding anticipated.
- Reconstruct Congress Street from Fort Point Channel to West Service Road and Sleeper Street to Complete Streets standards where applicable, in order to provide safe multimodal streets, including; new sidewalks, street lights, trees and street furniture.
- Design improvements to the Washington Street/Summer Street/Winter Street intersections, including reconstruction of the roadway, implementation of a pedestrian zone or shared street, and security improvements.
- Redesign Massachusetts Ave. between Melnea Cass Blvd. and Theodore Glynn Way for safety improvements that improve walking, biking, and public transit access.
- Response to 311 requests for sidewalk and ramp repairs and reconstruction.
- Reconstruct road, sidewalks, and lighting from Congress Street to Rose Kennedy Greenway.
- Reconstruct roads and sidewalks in the Whittier Street housing development in conjunction with a \$30M HUD grant to revitalize the development and surrounding neighborhood.
- Re-design the intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd. to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety.
- Installation of street lights in various locations.
- A City-wide project to convert mercury and sodium vapor streetlights to light emitting diode (LED) lights.

Boston Public Schools

- Renovate or make building improvements necessary to meet or maintain school building accreditation standards.
- Upgrade bathrooms at various schools, including fixtures, flooring, partitions, lighting, and paint.
- Design and construct the Carter School, in conjunction with the MSBA, a new school building that include spaces for beneficial and critical instructional activities, including aquatic, physical, creative arts, and multi-sensory therapies.
- Improve interior spaces at various schools to promote a 21st century learning experience, including lighting, security, classroom technology, and wayfinding.
- Study to design a future school facilities in East Boston.
- Upgrade building facilities to facilitate grade reconfigurations at various schools.
- Safety upgrades at the Mattahunt Elementary School and exterior lighting work at the BCYF Center walkway/entrance.
- Renovate women's locker rooms for Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and the O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science.
- Design and construct a new facility for the Josiah Quincy Upper School. The MSBA will partner with the City in the development and funding of this new school.
- Upgrade or replace fire alarms and/or fire protection systems at various schools.
- Design to begin major redesign and renovation of Madison Park Technical Vocational HHS.

Boston Police Department

- Design and implementation of upgrades to the Police radio system.
- Programming study to evaluate space requirements for the District B-3 station.
- Program and siting study for new facility to house evidence management, archives, and central supply functions.
- Renovate interior space at BPD headquarters to redesign and expand the Forensic Unit.
- Design and installation of upgraded signage at BPD facilities.
- Study to evaluate relocation of the EOD Unit.
- Capital maintenance at various BPD facilities including exterior repairs.
- Software upgrades to enhance digital security at BPD locations.
- Replace windows at District stations C6, C11, and E18 and roofs at C11 and E13.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters ought to be **READ FOR THE FIRST TIME AND ASSIGNED FOR FURTHER ACTION** to support this capital spending plan that addresses important investments throughout the City and sets the stage for future collaboration among the Administration and the City Council.

Brian Worrell

Brian Worrell Chair
Committee on Ways and Means