

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS LIZ BREADON , SHARON DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN,
LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, AND PEPEN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENTS TO CLEVELAND CIRCLE

- WHEREAS*, Cleveland Circle is a vital transit hub, commercial center, and residential area in the Brighton neighborhood of Boston that closely borders the municipalities of Brookline and Newton; due to its location, amenities, and other points of interest, it is a heavily trafficked area with high vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist activity; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Cleveland Circle is a major transit hub that serves as the terminus of the C Branch of the MBTA Green Line and the terminus of the 86 MBTA bus route; stations for both the B and D Branches of the Green Line are also located in close proximity to the Circle; *and*
- WHEREAS*, In 2023, the City of Boston Transportation Department announced a plan to make short- and medium-term improvements to the streets in Cleveland Circle under City jurisdiction, identifying Cleveland Circle as an area “many avoid...because of dangerous crosswalks, confusing angle parking, and unsafe bicycle facilities”; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The MBTA has proposed longer-term improvements to the area, including a substantial reconfiguration of the track layout in Cleveland Circle to increase accessibility and make C Branch stations compatible with the new "Type 10" Green Line trains; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Neither of these proposed improvement projects have yet materialized, with conditions in Cleveland Circle continuing to deteriorate: recently, *Boston Globe* readers voted the streets in Cleveland Circle as the “worst streets in the City of Boston”, placing the blame on the fact that “three separate entities — the T, Brookline, and Boston — share responsibility for parts of Cleveland Circle, and can and do deflect blame to one another for its potholes, faded crosswalks, and bizarrely timed traffic lights”; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The Allston Brighton Community Plan is an ongoing 20-month planning process led by the City of Boston Planning Department that will develop a shared vision for future changes to Allston-Brighton; this Plan is evaluating Cleveland Circle as a “focus area” to support safe travel and improve connections; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The poor condition of Cleveland Circle and other areas of Boston that have at-grade Green Line crossings- such as sections of South Huntington/Huntington

Avenues- are indicative of larger, long-term issues with interagency coordination between the City and State on transportation-related projects in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Immediate improvements to the roadway in Cleveland Circle are necessary to improve pedestrian safety and will require close collaboration with BTS, MBTA, and other relevant City and State agencies; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss improvements to Cleveland Circle and that representatives of BTS, MBTA, other relevant City departments, and interested members of the public be invited to attend.

Filed on: August 25, 2025