

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE REALLOCATING FUNDING FOR THE BLUE HILL AVENUE TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN PROJECT TOWARD STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS AND BEAUTIFICATION AND TO PROVIDE A STATUS UPDATE ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

WHEREAS, Blue Hill Avenue serves as one of the most significant economic and cultural transportation corridors for Black, Brown, and low-income residents in the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Decades of public disinvestment in streetscape beautification, tree canopy expansion, pedestrian infrastructure, and sanitation conditions along Blue Hill Avenue have contributed to disparate public realm conditions when compared to other major corridors in the City; *and*

WHEREAS, Street design, traffic planning, maintenance practices, and the allocation of public transportation infrastructure resources may result in a disproportionate adverse impact on protected classes, including Black and Brown residents, within the meaning of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 when such investments fail to address longstanding inequities in public street conditions; *and*

WHEREAS, Public rights-of-way, including streets, sidewalks, and transportation corridors, are components of publicly funded programs, services, and activities that must be implemented in a manner that does not produce unjustified disparate impacts on communities of color; *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed multimodal redesign of Blue Hill Avenue includes dedicated center-running bus lanes supported by approximately \$44 million in combined federal, City, and MBTA investment, including a \$15 million RAISE Grant administered by the Federal Transit Administration; *and*

WHEREAS, The implementation of dedicated bus-only travel lanes will reduce general purpose travel lanes, curbside access, and parking availability for residents, customers, and small businesses, potentially resulting in increased congestion,

longer travel times, reduced economic activity, and barriers to mobility for corridor residents who rely on personal vehicles for transportation; *and*

WHEREAS, The prioritization of bus-only travel infrastructure along a corridor serving predominantly Black, Brown, and low-income communities risks producing a disparate impact on residents who work in trades, have shift-based employment, and caregivers whose travel patterns are not easily accommodated by fixed-route transit service; *and*

WHEREAS, The reduction of general purpose travel lanes and on-street parking associated with dedicated bus lane implementation may disproportionately burden corridor residents with limited access to alternative transportation options by increasing travel times, limiting curbside access for essential services, and creating barriers to economic participation; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the proposed allocation of capital funding associated with the Blue Hill Avenue Corridor Project, including the potential reallocation of funds away from dedicated bus lane infrastructure and toward beautification, streetscape improvements, landscaping, tree canopy expansion, and pedestrian infrastructure in order to mitigate potential disparate impacts and advance civil rights protections in the design and maintenance of public streets, and to provide a comprehensive status update on the design, funding allocation, implementation timeline, and community engagement process for the Blue Hill Avenue Action Plan Project and that representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, the Public Works Department, the Mayor's Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on February 25, 2026