

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, EDWARD M. FLYNN, JOHN FITZGERALD, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE THE CREATION OF SAFE SCHOOL ZONES TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AROUND ALL SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, In the City of Boston, a School Zone includes solely the streets around the school within two blocks implementing a speed limit of 20mph yet there are no additional requirements nor street standards to enforce speed reduction. This is apparent as some school zones may have multiple signs yet some such as the Chittick School only has one; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is implementing the larger Safety Surge initiative installing speed humps, updating intersections, and changing signals in heavily recorded accident-prone streets. The eligible roads around our schools should be amongst the immediate upgrades as these areas are heavily frequented by pedestrians and commuters not just related to the school; *and*

WHEREAS, According to Safe Kids Worldwide (2016), 30% of school zones across the country lack marked crosswalks.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, reports updated signage that includes Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons can increase motorist yielding rates up to 98%. These additions can avoid past severe accidents in Boston such as a tragic moment in November 2023 when a Sumner School staff member was struck by a vehicle at the crosswalk on Cummins Highway while assisting students; *and*

WHEREAS, Every four days, Emergency Medical Services respond to a pediatric-related car accident averaging over 100 a year - a grave concern as children spend most of their time at school raising the likelihood of these accidents to happen there; *and*

WHEREAS, All Boston residents should feel a level of added safety regardless of how they are commuting to and around a school; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the establishments of Safe School Zones to create a standard of improvements on street design, road signage, and impose accountability of all community members to adhere to safer commuting behaviors. Representatives from appropriate departments of the administration, and experts on school transportation programs will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

Filed on: February 11, 2026