

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, ENRIQUE PEPÉN, ED FLYNN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, SANTANA, WEBER AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ASSESS AND ENHANCE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY OF BOSTON'S SIDEWALKS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is committed to ensuring that all public pathways are safe, accessible, and navigable for every resident, including individuals with disabilities, seniors, and families with strollers; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, Boston entered into a consent decree to install or upgrade an average of 1,630 curb ramps per year until all meet ADA standards, demonstrating a commitment to accessibility; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Works Department has initiated a Sidewalk Repair Program to address damages caused by various factors, including tree roots, with the goal of maintaining smooth and safe sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, Despite these initiatives, challenges such as sidewalk obstructions, inadequate snow removal, and damages from tree roots continue to impede safe pedestrian movement; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring equitable sidewalk maintenance across all neighborhoods is essential to promote fairness and inclusivity within the city;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to:

1. Evaluate the current state of sidewalk accessibility and safety throughout Boston's neighborhoods;
2. Assess the effectiveness and progress of existing programs, including the curb ramp installations and the Sidewalk Repair Program;
3. Identify ongoing challenges and barriers to achieving fully accessible and safe sidewalks for all residents;
4. Gather input from community members, advocacy groups, and experts on pedestrian accessibility; and
5. Develop recommendations for policy actions, resource allocations, and community engagement strategies to enhance sidewalk conditions citywide.

Filed on: April 2, 2025