



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

April 7, 2025

Mayor Michelle Wu
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500,
Boston, MA 02201

David Leonard, President
Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mayor Wu and President Leonard,

As the FY26 Budget Process begins shortly, I am writing to advocate and ensure that there are sufficient funds allocated for the study of a new South Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library in FY26.

Since 2022, the City of Boston has allocated \$250,000 in the Capital Plan for a South Boston Branch Library Study to conduct a facility assessment and develop a building program that reflects the BPL's Compass Principles and support the needs of the neighborhood. The study would then contribute towards the design and construction of a new branch library in South Boston to meet the growing needs of the community.

As you know, the South Boston Branch Library Study has been marked as “to be scheduled” since first appearing in the FY 2022 Capital Plan as a New Project. It is critical that sufficient funds are allocated to the South Boston Branch Library Study to reflect cost increases. With post-pandemic inflation, uncertainty in federal funding, possible construction costs increases, we need to ensure our capital plan projects are enacted in a timely manner.

South Boston’s population has grown considerably over the past 10-15 years. This branch is critical for residents, families and our seniors who want to access library services. I hope there will be sufficient allocation of funds for the South Boston Branch Library Study in the FY26 Capital Budget and expediency in moving this project along in the development process in the future. Many South Boston residents care deeply about the future development of the library and are eager to be engaged in this important discussion.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Council Councilor,
District 2