



SHARON DURKAN
OFFICE OF BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR, DISTRICT 8

September 22, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, the City of Boston was notified that the U.S. Department of Transportation is cancelling the \$20 million Roxbury Resilient Transportation Corridors Grant. This was a critical investment, allocated by Congress and awarded to Boston through a competitive DOT program designed to promote equity and sustainability in transportation.

The Roxbury Resilient Corridors project would have delivered improvements along three key corridors in Roxbury—Melnea Cass Boulevard, Malcolm X Boulevard, and Warren Street. The plan included dedicated center-running bus lanes, new sidewalks, separated bike facilities, bus shelters, intersection improvements, and green and stormwater infrastructure. Funded through the federal RAISE program, it would have made our transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable. For the many Roxbury residents who rely on bus service every day, this project would have been transformative. In April, I introduced the motion for the Council to suspend and pass this grant, and we voted unanimously in support.

Because these funds must be obligated by the end of FY2025, jurisdictions across the country are receiving similar cancellation notices. This appears to be part of the Trump Administration's strategy to run out the clock on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grants before they expire at the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30th. The DOT has refused to explain why it is withholding funds in direct contradiction of Congress's intent.

This is another attempt by the federal government to limit the City of Boston's ability to meet the needs of its residents. As elected officials, I believe we must:

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- Move federal grants through the Council as quickly as possible, given their competitive nature and the growing risk of federal obstruction; and
- Stand with the Mayor's Administration and state leaders, and our federal delegation, who have condemned these actions and are pursuing accountability.

The federal government's refusal to release these funds is part of a deliberate effort to delay initiatives that don't align with the Administration's political priorities. This is constitutionally concerning and a disservice to Americans, denying millions of dollars to communities across the country. I strongly condemn these actions.

I'm looking forward to keeping up our partnership and making sure Boston can deliver for our residents, no matter what comes from the federal level.

Sincerely,

Sharon Durkan

Boston City Councilor, District 8
Chair, Committee on *Planning, Development & Transportation*