



# **Boston City Council**

**Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation**  
**Councilor Frank Baker, *Chair***

**May 11, 2022**

**Dear Councilors:**

**The Boston City Council's Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation to which was referred the following:**

**Docket #0376 – Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$492,286.00) in the form of a grant, Accelerating Clean Transportation For All, awarded by Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to be administered by the Transportation Department.**

**The grant will fund the launch of an e-cargo bike delivery pilot, which will include supporting local businesses to join the program.**

**This matter is sponsored by the Mayor and was referred to the Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation on March 16, 2022.**

**The Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation held a public hearing on May 6, 2022, to take testimony and consider the same.**

**The hearing was chaired by Councilor Michael Flaherty at the request of the Committee Chair - Councilor Frank Baker**

**Councilors Present: Chair - Councilor Michael Flaherty, Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune and Councilor Julia Mejia**

**Letters of support were read into the record from Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor Liz Breadon**

**Vineet Gupta, Director of Planning - Boston Transportation Department and Harper Mills, E-Cargo Bike Project Manager - Boston Transportation Department, made a presentation on the particulars of this grant and responded to questions from Councilors.**

**The presentation of the Boston Transportation Department included:**

**Boston Delivers is a neighborhood delivery service pilot program. This service will make deliveries to and from local businesses in Allston and the surrounding area. Instead of motor vehicles, packages will be delivered by electric cargo bikes. The Boston Transportation Department will partner with a third party operator that will provide the electric cargo bikes, make the deliveries, and coordinate delivery logistics. Deliveries can take place between:**

- **A participating local business and their customer**
- **A participating local business and another business**
- **A supplier to a participating small business**

**Deliveries may be made up to 3-5 miles away from the participating business. There is potential for this program to expand into other neighborhoods.**

**The goals of the Pilot Program are to:**

- **Support local businesses. The City will provide financial and technical support to participating businesses. This program will help businesses provide a free delivery service where they may not already offer one. It will also encourage consumers to buy goods locally.**
- **Reduce pollution. This pilot program will reduce GHG emissions by replacing motor vehicle trips with e-cargo bike trips. The rise in the use of on-demand delivery services has led to more vehicles delivering fewer goods per trip. These vehicles are increasing pollution, noise, and congestion - using e-cargo bikes for last mile delivery may be a solution.**
- **Improve safety on our streets. The City aims to improve safety by reducing the size, speed, and environmental impacts of commercial delivery vehicles. The number of delivery vehicles has grown significantly. This has led to more conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, which has increased the potential for serious injury and death.**
- **Reduce urban congestion. The City aims to right-size delivery vehicles to better fit Boston's streets. Many of Boston's streets were not originally designed to accommodate large vehicles. Often, delivery vehicles stop in bus, bike, and vehicle travel lanes. This results in congestion that affects the whole transportation network.**

**Funding for this Pilot has been budgeted as follows by Mass CEC but they are flexible on exact numbers:**

- **\$128,352 for a BTM Program Manager for approximately 20-24 months. The City would be responsible for benefits.**
- **\$76,934 for services provided by MAPC**
- **\$287,000 to hire a vendor to implement the E-Cargo Bike pilot in Allston Brighton which includes the \$30K set aside for Allston Village Main Streets. We are in the middle of an RFP process to select our vendor.**

**Based on the testimony and information presented at the hearing and having considered the same I respectfully recommend that this matter ought to Pass.**

*Frank Baker*

**Councilor Frank Baker, Chair**

**Committee on Planning, Development and Transportation**

