Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

July 2, 2026

Commissioner Michael Cox
One Schroeder Plaza
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120

RE: Boston Police Enforcement on Main Streets & Commercial Corridors for Mopeds and E-Bikes

Dear Commissioner Cox,

I am respectfully requesting dedicated resources from Boston Police to provide traffic enforcement for mopeds and e-bikes on our main streets and commercial corridors throughout the city. Earlier this week, a triple shooting in the Theatre District was reportedly connected to the theft of a moped. According to reports, a group inside of a nearby McDonald's discovered that one of their mopeds had been stolen. Two individuals then ran outside, got on their own mopeds, and pursued the suspected thief. This ultimately culminated in a shooting that left three injured, raising serious concerns about the increasing number of moped-related incidents in the city. Coupled with our ongoing pedestrian safety crisis due to third-party food delivery mopeds and e-bikes driving recklessly, it is critical to respond to this growing trend and the impacts of micro-mobility devices on both public and pedestrian safety.

In both September 2025 and February 2026, I offered an amendment to the Mayor's Road Safety and Accountability for Delivery Providers ordinance, which would reverse the City of Boston's policy since 2022, and now discourage and prohibit major third-party delivery companies (Uber Eats, Grubhub, DoorDash) from the use of mopeds and e-bikes. At my hearing on April 7th, Boston Police also submitted a memo that indicated scooters were involved in 525 crash reports in 2025, and that, "...similar vehicles continue to be used in the commission of crimes including robberies and firearm violence due to their ability to maneuver easily in traffic. And they are frequently stolen - there were 448 auto thefts of scooters reported in 2025."

Moreover, third-party food delivery drivers now work to obtain orders from many different restaurants on a given day. Coupled with difficult weather conditions for the majority of the year, reports indicate they are incentivized by these big-tech delivery companies to prioritize speed over safety. These large companies exploit the drivers to secure as many assignments as fast as possible, maintain high ratings, and preserve their employment. This dynamic and business model has set the drivers up to fail, made food delivery more expensive for residents, and exacerbated our existing pedestrian safety crisis already caused by speeding vehicles. At my hearing in April, the vast majority of testimony from dozens of residents, our seniors, persons with disabilities (the visually impaired) and young parents stated that our streets are now less safe. Last fall, a pedestrian tragically passed away weeks after being struck by a moped food delivery near Copley Square. It's critical that we take action to prevent more people from getting hurt.

With these increasing reports of violent crime and firearm offenses, as well as neighbors feeling unsafe due to the drivers' inability to follow basic traffic laws, I am respectfully requesting additional resources on main streets and commercial roads throughout Boston dedicated to enforcement and monitoring the use of e-bikes and mopeds.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, U.S. Navy (Retired)