

Offered by City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

WHEREAS: Major cities across the country, including New York City, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Seattle, and the state of New Jersey in its entirety, use transportation benefit ordinances to promote public transportation usage by large employers and their workforces; and

WHEREAS: Transportation benefit ordinances require employers to offer certain fringe benefits such as pre-tax payroll deductions for public transit passes; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston offers such pre-tax payroll deduction for its own employees, while at least one neighboring municipality offers discounted transportation options; and

WHEREAS: The City has not adopted requirements for private employers to provide similar transportation fringe benefits; and

WHEREAS: Modest efforts to reduce congestion could significantly improve commuting times, combat vehicle pollution and reduce time lost at work due to traffic delays; and

WHEREAS: Federal tax reform has increased the cost to employers for parking that is not provided through a formal benefit program, making transit benefits financially advantageous for all parties; and

WHEREAS: It is critical the private sector play a role in reducing traffic congestion; *THEREFORE*

BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss transportation benefits in the City of Boston, and that the Chief of Streets, Boston Transportation Department, and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: January 29th, 2020