

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Kendra Lara, Arroyo, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Breadon, Flaherty, Louijeune, Flynn and Murphy



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

- WHEREAS,*** The FY23 recommended budget for Boston Public Schools transportation is \$116,467,033, which comprises roughly 10% of all BPS spending; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Despite enrollment in BPS having declined by 8,000 since 2015, expenditures for BPS transportation have been steadily on the rise, with there being a roughly \$4 million increase in recommended spending between fiscal years 2022 and 2023; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** BPS also provides transportation for out-of-district special education students, and these costs comprise 23.7% of the FY23 BPS transportation budget; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** In the FY19 Budget, the Boston City Council approved a \$119 million budget for Boston Public School transportation and the district spent \$126 million; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** The Boston Public Schools transportation team has struggled with hiring and bus driver retention problems, which has led to busses being late or not arriving at all to pick up students to take them to school or to out-of-school athletic events; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** The ongoing dialogues between state and city officials in regards to BPS reforms has focused on transportation issues impacting the school district, with the state proposing a goal of 95% on-time performance for school busses and the city proposing a 93% on-time performance rate; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Late or absent busses result not only in learning loss for students who must continuously show up late, but it also has a financial burden on families who must pay out of pocket for alternative forms of transportation; *and*

WHEREAS, It is crucial that students in Boston Public Schools have access to safe, reliable, and consistent transportation to and from school; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing regarding the Boston Public Schools Transportation system. Representatives from the administration, including the Boston Public Schools Transportation Department, in addition to advocates and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: January 25, 2023