

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, BREADON, COLETTA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE RULES AND REGULATION OF VEHICLES IN RELATION TO EXPANSION OF MICRO MOBILITY ACCESS

WHEREAS, The Boston Transportation Department has a mission to, “plan, build, maintain, and operate Boston's streets in a manner that increases access to opportunities, promotes safety and resilience and fosters the highest quality of life for everyone living, working and visiting the City; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Transportation Department has made the “Vision Zero” commitment to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes in the City by 2030; *and*

WHEREAS, The expansion of infrastructure and devices that support residents’ and visitors’ ability to travel around the City via multiple modes – including walking, biking, driving, and transit services – requires rules and regulations to ensure multimodal transportation meets the safety standards outlined in the City’s transportation mission and Vision Zero commitment; *and*

WHEREAS, The increasing availability and opportunity of micromobility transportation options – broadly defined as any small, low-speed, human- or electric-powered transportation device, including bicycles, scooters, electric-assist bicycles, electric scooters (e-scooters) and other small, lightweight, wheeled conveyances – create a unique transportation environment; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Transportation Department is supporting the expansion of micromobility through a number of initiatives including the effort to create 9 new miles of bike lanes across the City, the inclusion of electric bikes in the City’s Blue Bikes fleet, the “Boston Delivers” pilot, which provides package deliveries to local business in Allston and the surrounding area to be made by electric cargo bikes and others; *and*

WHEREAS, With the expansion of micromobility access in Boston, residents and visitors are presented with both the opportunity of freedom of movement and access to resources, but also the challenges of safe travel amidst a shifting transportation landscape with multiple users sharing the same space; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston’s Transportation Department presently pursues a number of projects and initiatives to prioritize and improve safety for all modes of

transportation including free learn-to-bike workshops, small-scale safety improvements around intersections, slow-streets initiatives in residential and school areas, a new “safety-surge” implementing thousands of speed humps City-wide; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Works Department also carries a responsibility in maintaining safety on our City streets through the reconstruction of streets, bridges and sidewalks; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Disabilities Commission initiated “Boston Brakes,” a campaign to raise awareness of and increase safety for pedestrians with disabilities in the summer of 2023, which uplifts laws to ensure the safety of pedestrians with disabilities as well as uplifting challenging interactions between pedestrians with disabilities and other road users particularly at intersections and curb areas; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston’s Vision Zero Map reported in 2023 an alarming total of 3,006 injuries and 10 fatalities on the road from motor vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian crashes in the city of Boston and an EMS report from 2020 found that approximately 55% of all bicyclist incidents involved a motor vehicle, 18% a road surface, and 9% pedestrian; *and*

WHEREAS, To become a City where all residents and visitors have safe equitable and green transportation options that foster community engagement, economic opportunity, and environmental responsibility, clear rules are needed to regulate the operation and interaction of our multiple modes of travel; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene a hearing to comprehensively review and update existing regulations to address the challenges and opportunities associated with the expansion of micromobility access in the city of Boston for City leaders and policymakers to discuss challenges associated with regulating these services, ensuring they operate safely and equitably, and negotiating the terms of Boston’s Vision Zero data collection and use. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, Disabilities Commission, Boston Public Schools, and Boston Planning Development Agency are invited to testify

Filed on: February 5, 2024