

Offered by City Councilors Ayanna Pressley and Michelle Wu

## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL



### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WITH A CASHLESS FARE COLLECTION SYSTEM

- WHEREAS:** Residents of every socioeconomic background rely on public transportation to live, work, and play in and around Greater Boston; and
- WHEREAS:** The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is planning policy changes aimed at increasing efficiency and streamlining riders' interactions with the public transit system; and
- WHEREAS:** These changes include implementing a cashless fare collection system that would eliminate cash payments to board buses, trolleys, and trains, and instead require customers to pay fares by tapping a CharlieCard, credit card, or smartphone on an electronic reader; and
- WHEREAS:** Advocates have raised concerns about the impact of this specific policy change for people with low incomes, people who are underbanked without access to credit cards or smartphones, and our elderly population; and
- WHEREAS:** The MBTA has approved a \$723 million contract to modernize the fare collection system that would include creating a network of retailers that sell and reload the cards to support a cashless system; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council has an interest in understanding the design process for updating and streamlining riders' interactions with the public transit system, and how proposed changes account for socioeconomic barriers to continue creating and building a transit system that is affordable, accessible, and reliable for all riders;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the MBTA's proposed cashless fare system, focusing on ways to support the transit system in accounting for the experience of all riders, and that the MBTA and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 24, 2018