



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE TREMONT STREET DESIGN PROJECT IN THE SOUTH END

- WHEREAS:** Transportation planning is critical to the smooth running of a city. The configuration of our streets has a deep impact on the quality of life and safety of our residents as well as the economic success or failure of our local businesses; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There have been major transportation planning and street redesign projects in various neighborhoods across the city in recent years, including State Street, Boylston Street, Tremont Street, Summer Street in District 2; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 2018, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) started the Tremont Street Design Project in the South End with the goal to improve pedestrian safety, visibility at intersections, slow traffic, and create safer bike lanes; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Tremont Street Design project has resulted in a road diet and the reduction of parking spots to accommodate for the creation of dedicated bike lanes on both sides of Tremont Street. Last week, as part of the project, the parking meter modernization and signage installation was also completed; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In the last year, residents and small businesses have expressed that having only one travel lane in either direction in main streets and commercial roads has not only exacerbated traffic, the removal of road space and visitor parking spaces has made it nearly impossible for commercial and delivery vehicles or patrons to park. Business owners have also shared how these changes have discouraged patrons from visiting and spending their money in the South End, negatively impacting foot traffic and their operations; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In addition, the one travel lane configuration and removal of road space has also created potential difficulties for emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks to pass through during peak traffic hours, especially when buses and rideshares are picking up and dropping off, or in the event of a snowstorm; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many residents have noted that these changes were done with minimal neighborhood collaboration. Many also felt that their voices were not heard, and that the outcome of city redesigns have already been decided before public input was heard; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents and local businesses who live in a neighborhood and pay taxes should have a say in what takes place in their neighborhood. The institutional knowledge, lived experience, and feedback of residents in the City of Boston, our civic organizations and small business community is critical, and should be seriously considered before any decisions are made; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The Boston Transportation Department needs to have robust discussions and community meetings in the neighborhoods of Boston as they engage in street redesign and traffic planning, and it is critical to take into account the institutional knowledge and feedback from the residents and businesses who will be most impacted; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to review the functionality of the Tremont Street Design Project in the South End. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, civic associations and local businesses, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

**Filed on:** March 17, 2025