

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: Bostonians need the MBTA to reach work, school, friends, and family and should have equal access to efficient and reliable transit services; and

WHEREAS: Many neighborhoods – especially those dominated by low-income residents and people of color – lack subway or commuter rail lines and rely overwhelmingly on bus and Silver Line service; and

WHEREAS: The existing traffic control system prioritizes automobiles over mass transit, and residents across Boston face traffic congestion and unnecessary commuting delays; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston can work with the Commonwealth and MBTA to correct this imbalance through transit signal priority, using technology to decrease the amount of time buses and Silver Line vehicles spend waiting at traffic lights; and

WHEREAS: The Boston Transportation Department is already implementing transit signal priority in pilot areas and works to create the most efficient timing of traffic lights and signals through the BTD Traffic Management Center; and

WHEREAS: Officials estimate that Boston’s population will pass 700,000 by 2030, further straining our roads, highways, and public transit systems; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council has a responsibility to ensure adequate public services for city residents and has previously lobbied the MBTA on issues such as Late Night Service and inconsistent Commuter Rail fare pricing; therefore, be it

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine transit signal prioritization policies in the City of Boston. Representatives from the MBTA, the Boston Department of Transportation, transportation advocates, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: March 2, 2016