



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

June 20, 2019

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

Senator Adam G Hinds
Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue
State House, Room 109-E
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Mark J. Cusack
Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue
State House, Room 34
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Hinds, Chairman Cusack and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today to express my support of *H2653/S.1694, An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives*, filed by Representatives Vargas and Madaro and Senator Lesser. This bill authorizes a municipality, or group of municipalities to impose a tax surcharge to be used for transportation-related purposes only.

In Boston, we are strong believers in deeper investments in transportation. We have made Regional Ballot Initiatives a top priority for two key reasons: it can fund critical transportation infrastructure, and it engages people in a democratic process for raising that revenue and determining these investments.

Boston has significantly increased capital investments in our sidewalks, roads and bridges; and, we have accelerated our work to make our streets safer, make trips more reliable and provide quality transportation choices more equitably across our city. These are areas our residents prioritized through the public engagement process when we built our Go Boston 2030, the City's comprehensive mobility plan. We know from that process that there are a range of specific, impactful projects that residents would likely consider supporting through a regional ballot initiative, such as redesigning streets that have the highest number of crashes, or building out a high quality commuter bike network, or improving the roads that run through the main street districts of our neighborhoods, among many others.

The current state of our transportation system and the experience facing our commuters and residents on a daily basis requires us to have a meaningful all-of-the-above conversation, and this tool should be one of the solutions offered. This bill empowers our residents in perhaps the most democratic and transparent of ways, and it helps us advance the projects they most want at the pace our residents deserve.

In closing, I respectfully request your support of this bill and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or you may reach Yissel Guerrero in the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations at (617) 635-4616.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston

