



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

MARTIN J. WALSH
MAYOR

June 19, 2017

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to appropriate the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) from the City's Capital Grant Fund in order to increase Boston's Vision Zero capital program investment in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) to \$4.1 million. This funding, which will expand our Neighborhood Slow Streets program, is part of the City's comprehensive investment in street safety. Highlights of this effort from the FY18 Budget and Capital Plan are outlined below.

Calming Speeds, Reducing Crashes in Our Neighborhoods

In 2015, we joined the international Vision Zero effort, committing to reduce serious crashes and eliminate fatalities from our streets. That winter, in collaboration with local advocates, we published our action plan. That plan included a new program called Neighborhood Slow Streets, through which we are making physical changes to the roads in residential neighborhoods to calm speeds and reduce crashes.

Last fiscal year, with your support, we dedicated funds to implement two of these neighborhood interventions each year for the next three years. This year, with your support of this transmittal, we will expand that program in FY 18 to five locations.

This investment complements additional efforts in the FY18 budget including funds to implement new radar sign boards, re-design high crash corridors and intersections, and implement a citywide program to bring crosswalks, bike lanes and other lane markings into a state of good repair.

Building a Low Stress Bike Network Across the City

In Go Boston 2030, we laid out a multi-year plan to build a low stress bike network in Boston. Of the 26 priority projects, 11 - supported through this budget - are already in design or construction, including projects such as Beacon Street in the Back Bay, Connect Historic Boston in the North End, and Dudley Square in Roxbury. The projects that are underway will add 7.75 additional miles of separated bike lanes in Boston and will improve roadway safety for both motorists and cyclists.

In addition, through this budget we will increase the number of bike racks in Boston by almost 10%, adding an estimated 180 new bike racks and repairing about 60 existing bike racks in FY18.

Expanding Outreach & Accelerating Implementation

Implementing Neighborhood Slow Streets and building a low stress bike network take significant effort. That is why, in addition to the current staff working on these programs, I am adding - in the Operating Budget - additional transportation engineering and community outreach capacity to ensure Vision Zero priorities can be met. In particular, this will allow us to take quicker action on tactical projects, as the long term capital investments progress.

I urge your Honorable Body to pass this Order so that the City of Boston may use the funds to proceed with the above-mentioned projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin J. Walsh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

ORDERED: That the City of Boston appropriate the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) from the Capital Grant Fund of the City for the purpose of funding various transportation and public realm improvements including, but not limited to, facilities for biking and walking. To meet this appropriation, the Collector/Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to transfer such amount from the Parking Meter Fund to the Capital Grant Fund.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

BY


EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY
CORPORATION COUNSEL