Offered by City Councilors Michelle Wu and Liz Breadon

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING IMPLEMENTING CHANGES FOR SAFE STREETS DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS: The City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have each declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with directives to slow the spread of the virus through physical distancing and staying at home; *and*

WHEREAS: Although travel has been limited and traffic has been reduced during this period, residents continue to need access to safe streets, sidewalks, and public transit for essential trips and recreation; *and*

WHEREAS: Other cities across the country have implemented changes to ensure sufficient space for social distancing by reallocating street space, expanding sidewalks that have become too crowded, eliminating the need to push beg buttons for pedestrian crossing signals, and ensuring enough frequency of public transit that riders can practice physical distancing on buses and trains; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston is part of the Vision Zero coalition to implement changes for safe streets that would eliminate fatalities caused by vehicle crashes; *and*

WHEREAS: During the quarantine, on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, a cyclist was fatally struck by a tractor trailer in Boston at Massachusetts Avenue and Harrison Avenue; *and*

WHEREAS: Improvements for safe, sustainable mobility will be especially important as Boston enters a recovery period with transition to more economic activity and travel while still requiring physical distancing; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the implementation of changes for safe streets during the COVID-19 pandemic and for continued safe mobility throughout a transition to fuller economic activity; and that representatives from the City of Boston Transportation Department, community organizations, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: April 29, 2020