

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu, Janey, Essaibi-George, Baker, Ciommo, Edwards, Flaherty
Flynn, Garrison, McCarthy, O'Malley, Zakim and Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE MBTA'S BETTER BUS PROJECT

- WHEREAS:** The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority's Better Bus Project involves efforts to improve bus service and the greater public transit system. The MBTA plans to reinvent the bus system to reflect changing demographics, replace the fare collection system, and bring all assets to a state of good repair; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** The MBTA has 47 cost-neutral proposals to update and modernize existing routes. The Better Bus Project includes several components: continuous change, analysis, proposed near-term changes, multi-year investment strategy, and the Bus Network Redesign; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** The Bus Network Redesign will simplify bus routes, either by combining similar routes, eliminating parts of routes that few riders use, or straightening out routes that now meander between their most-used stops. These proposals lay the foundation for a bus network with more frequent, reliable service that provides better connectivity in Greater Boston; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** During Winter 2018 - 2019, the MBTA has been collecting public comments on the proposed near-term changes, including open houses, community meetings, and a form requesting feedback in eight languages; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** The MBTA intends to purchase 194 40-foot diesel-electric hybrid buses for use in the greater Boston area, supplementing the more than 200 hybrid buses between 40 and 60 feet which have operated in the city since 2010; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** These proposals, along with the release of a State of the System Report, Market Analysis Report, and Route Profiles that describe each MBTA bus route in detail, will inform a series of new schedules and bus routes that may be implemented as early as fall of 2019; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the MBTA's Better Bus project and ongoing efforts to address service reliability on major transit corridors in Boston to improve mobility access for city residents, and that representatives from the MBTA, Boston Transportation Department, City of Boston Budget Office, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed: February 13, 2019