



A Call to Action to Make Roszie the Most Walkable Neighborhood in Boston

April 5, 2018

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY (mayor@boston.gov)

Hon. Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston
One City Hall Square, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Support Letter – FY 2019 Boston Transportation Department Budget

Dear Mayor Walsh:

I write on behalf of WalkUP Roslindale to express our strong support for your administration's leadership on sustainable transportation reflected in the recently-released FY2019 budget proposal for the Boston Transportation Department (BTD).

WalkUP Roslindale, which takes its name from the international movement to foster "Walkable Urban Places," is a collaborative group of residents dedicated to making Roslindale the most walkable neighborhood in Boston. We advocate for a dynamic, livable streetscape and we support positive changes to our public and private built environment that strengthen walkability and other forms of active mobility as means toward better personal and public health, safety, social capital, economic development, and environmental sustainability. We are led by a steering group of about thirty residents and have nearly 1,000 additional supporters. More information about WalkUP Roslindale and our initiatives can be found at www.walkuproslindale.org. We recognize that no single group of people can be said to speak for our entire neighborhood – instead, please take these comments as representing the collective support of our steering group members (indicated below) resulting from our mission and principles.

The BTD budget proposes an increase of \$5 Million annually for key BTD priorities embodied in both the Vision Zero Policy and the Go Boston 2030 mobility plan. Specifically, we support the proposed deployment of these additional funds as follows:

- **\$2 million for sidewalk improvements and roadway resurfacing** to accelerate bringing our streets up to a state of good repair;
- **\$300,000 for biking infrastructure**, bringing total bike investments to \$1.2 million annually;
- **Two new planners and two new engineers** to focus on designing and implementing key Vision Zero programs, such as Neighborhood Slow Streets, and other priority projects;
- **\$400,000 for the Green Links** program to fund critical bike and pedestrian connections for the city's park and greenway networks;
- **One new traffic signal engineer** to rework traffic signals to improve street safety and efficiency and **two new traffic signal mechanics** to keep signals working as designed;
- **Up to four new maintenance & operations personnel** to ensure that infrastructure added to improve street safety, such as pedestrian delineators and flex posts, are kept in a state of good repair; and
- **Six new BTD staff positions to form a "Transit Team"** led by a "transit coordinator" that will plan, facilitate, implement, and maintain bus improvements like the Washington Street pilot in several more corridors across the City.

Simply put, these investments will be transformative and greatly expand the City's ability to more rapidly implement dozens of critical street and transit projects. We also support the funding of this annual increase in BTD's budget by increasing fines for

certain vehicular parking violations. We fully concur with your administration's analysis that these fines will be beneficial in many ways, including decreasing illegal parking and improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety as well as bus transit performance. Finally, we were also gratified to see that the Roslindale Gateway Path, a multi-use walking/biking trail proposed to run from the Roslindale Village MBTA Station through the Arboretum to Forest Hills that we have championed since our founding, was specifically mentioned as an example of projects that could be funded with the proposed increase for the Green Links program. We look forward to continuing to work with your administration to bring this project to fruition soon.

Once again, thank you for this important advancement. We also want to express our support for this proposal in the strongest way possible and intend to urge the City Council to adopt BTB's FY2019 budget as you have proposed it.

Sincerely yours,



Matthew J. Lawlor

Resident @ 15 Basto Terrace, Roslindale, on behalf of the WalkUP Roslindale Steering Group

Ricardo Austrich, Resident @ 843 South Street, Roslindale
Lisa Beatman, Resident @ 180 Mount Hope Street, Roslindale
Rachel Blumberg, Resident @ 15 Newburg Street, Apt. 2
Lucy Bullock-Sieger, Resident @ 33 Brookdale Street, Roslindale
Steve Gag, Resident @ 631 South Street, Roslindale
Liz Graham-Meredith, Resident @ 6 Crandall Street, Roslindale
Sarah Kurpiel Lee, Resident @ 65 Cornell Street, Roslindale
Mandana Moshtaghi, Resident @ 12 Arborough Road, Roslindale
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