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**Boston City Councilors Michelle Wu and Kim Janey File Hearing Order Seeking to Eliminate Fares for 28 Bus Route**

*The 28 Bus Route is an important economic opportunity corridor, running from Mattapan Square along Blue Hill Avenue through Grove Hall and Dudley Square to Ruggles Station*

BOSTON – Today, Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu and District 7 Councilor Kim Janey introduced an Order for a Hearing Regarding Eliminating the Ridership Fare on MBTA Bus Route 28. The Order calls on the Boston City Council to convene discussions to transition the bus route servicing the neighborhoods along Blue Hill Avenue from Mattapan to Ruggles station to a fare free corridor. The Order was assigned to the Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation where a hearing will be scheduled.

“Public transportation should unlock opportunity for our residents, not stand as a barrier to accessing jobs and education,” said Councilor Wu. “Piloting a fare-free 28 Bus would demonstrate the power of removing financial barriers for low-income riders and protect communities from the disproportionate impacts of the planned new cashless fare technology.”

"Communities of color and low-income bus riders face significant inequities in our transportation system," said Councilor Janey. "Eliminating the fare on the 28 bus will improve bus performance, reduce the cost burden on riders, decrease vehicle traffic, and improve Boston's carbon footprint."

The 28 Bus Route serves the most riders of any MBTA route, at more than 12,000 per day. According to a passenger survey, 54% of passengers along this corridor have no usable vehicles, 45% do not have a valid driver’s license, 65% of riders are low income, and 92% are people of color. From 2014-2016, this bus route experienced a 9% decline in ridership due to its unpredictability. The MBTA bus system and the 28 bus specifically play a crucial role in transporting low-income Bostonians to work. The City of Boston is currently working to design a community process to assess a proposal to speed bus times along this corridor through the installation of a dedicated bus lane.

This hearing order follows Councilor Wu’s work to organize opposition to the MBTA’s proposed fare hikes. On Monday, the MBTA’s Fiscal Management Control Board voted to raise fares, but amended the proposal to not include fare increases for bus riders, seniors, youth, and low income riders.

*To learn more about Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu visit* [*http://michelleforboston.com*](http://michelleforboston.com/) *or connect with her on* [*Facebook*](https://www.facebook.com/michelleforboston/)*,* [*Twitter*](https://twitter.com/wutrain)*, or* [*Instagram*](https://www.instagram.com/wutrain/)*.*