

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council:

VOTE

To establish a School Bus Violation Stabilization Fund as authorized by MGL c. 40, §5B (4th paragraph) and to dedicate one hundred (100%) per cent of revenue collected from the school bus automated traffic enforcement camera fines into said fund to be used, subject to appropriation by a two-thirds majority of the City Council and at the sole discretion of the City's Chief Financial Officer, to offset high transportation costs for the Lowell Public Schools, including, but not limited to, out-of-district special education transportation, fuel and maintenance costs and safety improvements at bus stops, as well as additional enforcement measures and any other related expenses pertaining to said enforcement measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE, as follows:

That an School Bus Violation Stabilization Fund is hereby established, as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 40, §5B (4th paragraph), and funds shall be used, subject to appropriation by a two-thirds majority of the City Council and at the sole discretion of the City's Chief Financial Officer, to offset high transportation costs for the Lowell Public Schools, including, but not limited to, out-of-district special education transportation, fuel and maintenance costs and safety improvements at bus stops, as well as additional enforcement measures and any other related expenses pertaining to said enforcement measures.

AND BE IT FUTHER VOTED BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE,

That, one hundred (100%) per cent of fees collected from the school bus violation detection monitoring system, shall be as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 40, §5B (4th paragraph).



Conor Baldwin
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager

FROM: Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer 

CC: William Skinner, Superintendent of Lowell Public Schools
Dr. Derek Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance

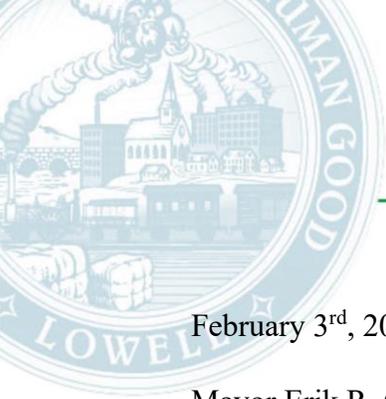
DATE: February 3rd, 2026

SUBJECT: Vote to Create a School Bus Violation Stabilization Fund

As the City considers implementing automated traffic enforcement cameras under Chapter 399 of the Acts of 2024, the Finance Team recommends establishing a dedicated stabilization fund to manage any revenue generated from fines. Creating a special fund under M.G.L. c. 40, § 5B would allow the City to allocate 100% of fine revenue toward critical transportation needs within the Lowell Public Schools. This approach offers several financial advantages:

- **Budgetary Relief for Transportation Costs:** Lowell currently faces significant expenses for out-of-district special education transportation, fuel, and maintenance. Redirecting enforcement revenue to these areas can offset rising costs and reduce pressure on the general fund.
- **Predictable Funding Stream:** Establishing a dedicated fund creates a reliable source of revenue for transportation-related improvements, reducing reliance on volatile state aid or one-time appropriations.
- **Capital Planning Support:** Funds can be earmarked for long-term investments such as bus stop safety enhancements, fleet upgrades, and technology improvements, aligning with the City's capital improvement plan.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** A separate fund ensures clear tracking of revenues and expenditures

Please let me know if they're any questions.



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

February 3rd, 2026

Mayor Erik R. Gitschier
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Gitschier and Members of the Lowell City Council,

As the City explores the implementation of automated traffic enforcement cameras under Chapter 399 of the Acts of 2024, I strongly recommend establishing a dedicated stabilization fund to manage any revenue generated from fines. This measure will ensure that the program's financial structure aligns with its core mission: protecting students and improving transportation safety.

Creating a special fund under M.G.L. c. 40, § 5B would allow the City to allocate 100% of fine revenue toward critical transportation needs within the Lowell Public Schools. By earmarking these resources for transportation-related expenses, we can provide long-term budgetary relief while reinforcing the program's public safety objectives. Further financial benefits are discussed in the memorandum by the Chief Financial Officer.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

CC: William Skinner, Superintendent Lowell Public Schools