



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

October 21, 2026

SPONSORED BY

AGENDA ITEM

26-182 - Resolution on Routine Maintenance and Upkeep of Private Ways

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

WHEREAS, Chapter 90 funds are state aid, restricted for use on public ways only;

WHEREAS, on average Medford's annual Chapter 90 aid hovers around \$990k;

WHEREAS, the City Administration, in its annual budget since 2020, relies solely on Chapter 90 funds for the maintenance and upkeep of City roads;

WHEREAS, the City Administration has a policy of refusing to perform certain routine maintenance and upkeep of private ways, citing the restrictions of Chapter 90 funds;

WHEREAS, the use of revenue generated through taxation is not restricted for use on public ways only;

WHEREAS, a taxation override for the purpose of funding a dedicated Road & Sidewalk Crew, allocated \$500,000 annually to establish a permanent, in-house DPW repair division specifically

WHEREAS, these override funds are not restricted by the provisions of Chapter 90;

WHEREAS, the City Administration, since 2020, has appropriated \$0.00 for the maintenance and upkeep of private ways;

WHEREAS, 39% of the streets in the City are private ways, that do not receive their fair share of funding for roadway maintenance and upkeep;

WHEREAS, the use of tax revenues for the purpose of maintaining and upgrading our private ways is not precluded by state statute; and

WHEREAS, appropriating tax revenues for the purpose of funding for maintenance and upkeep of private ways is a budgetary decision of the City Administration; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration has failed to make equitable delivery of public works services a priority;

Be it therefore RESOLVED that the City Administration create and assign a specific account and line item for the purpose of funding Private Way Upkeep and Maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None