

Steven Sepe

From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:51 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Patricia Raub
Subject: RI Transit Riders supports H5529

This is Barry Schiller, writing in support of H5529 on behalf of RI Transit Riders.

We support this bill largely because of the ongoing issue of how often sidewalks are not cleared after snowstorms, leaving some bus passengers unable to safely access bus stops. While RIPTA's bus shelters are usually cleared, the greater number of bus stops and adjacent sidewalks often are not. Our call to Governor Raimondo to convene stakeholders (municipal leaders, RIDOT, RIPTA, DPWs, police, advocacy groups...) to work out a system to actually get this done went unanswered.

Thus, for state highways at least, this bill might offer help as RIDOT already has the responsibility on these routes to ensure safe travel for cars. As they are a Department of "Transportation" it is not unreasonable to also give them responsibility for infrastructure for those that use the roads to walk, and these in a wheelchair too. Indeed, more generally pedestrian deaths have been trending up as a % of road fatalities, so this is a responsibility RIDOT, with its fine Traffic Safety Office, should be willing to take on and not just for snow removal. For reasons of health, environment, economy, and mobility for all we do have a societal interest in ensuring safe travel for those that use the sidewalks and this bill is one way to help ensure that.

We thank the sponsors and the Committee for considering this bill

Barry Schiller for RI Transit Riders

cc: Patricia Raub, coordinator of RI Transit Riders