



DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR

CITY OF PAWTUCKET

PUBLIC WORKS CENTER
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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS CENTER



Public Works Director

4/30/2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island Statehouse
Providence, 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 5393 - State Responsibility for Sidewalk Maintenance Along State Highways. This is important legislation that would require the State of Rhode Island to re-assume responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks along state highways, apart from snow and ice removal.

Under current law, the responsibility for maintaining and repairing state-owned sidewalks rests with local cities and towns. This arrangement places a significant financial burden on municipalities and shifts liability to cities in the event of accident claims.

This legislation continues to be a priority for our cities and towns. Aligning sidewalk maintenance responsibilities appropriately with the State will reduce an unfunded burden on municipal resources and ensure consistent maintenance standards along state highways throughout Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Crawley

Chris Crawley
Acting DPW Director
City of Pawtucket