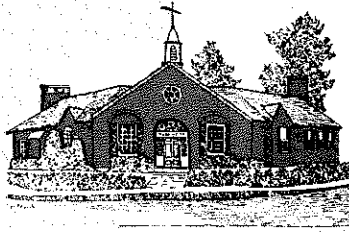


TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

Office of Town Manager
Michael C. Wood, Town Manager



TOWN BUILDING
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May 5, 2025

Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am respectfully asking for your support of House Bill 5393. As Burrillville Town Manager, one of my priorities is ensuring safe infrastructure for our residents.

For many years it has been a gray area when it came to maintaining and repairing sidewalks along state roads. I am of the opinion that this responsibility should belong with RIDOT for the following reasons:

- Curb cuts, utility tie-ins, and sidewalk alterations within a State Right of Way require Physical Alteration Permits. These permits are issued through RIDOT and not the local municipality. For a PAP permit the State collects a minimum of \$200 dollars for a residential home and \$1000 for a commercial property. The Town has no oversight over how these permits are granted and furthermore has no involvement in inspecting these projects once completed to ensure they were done properly.
- Many sidewalks within the state right of way contain storm water infrastructure that is owned and maintained by the State of Rhode Island. Several issues we have with failing sidewalks are the direct result of structural problems with catch basins and manholes.
- Passage of this bill would not just benefit the Town of Burrillville but many other communities by ensuring consistency and standardization. By having the maintenance, repairs, and inspections of sidewalks along state roads under the purview of the state, we ensure safety standards are applied across all state-owned sidewalks.
- Centralizing responsibility at the state level allows for more efficient resource allocation and economies of scale. The state can leverage its larger budget and access to specialized equipment and personnel to efficiently manage sidewalk maintenance and repairs along state roads. This efficiency can lead to cost savings and better utilization of taxpayer funds compared to each town individually managing its section

of state roads.

While we understand that we are all facing financial difficulties and trying to balance budgets, passage of this bill would go a long way to improve the way we do business and ensure we are providing safe standards for pedestrian access to all our residents.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael C. Wood".

Michael C. Wood
Town Manager