

Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

180 High Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Tel. 401-789-9331

May 19, 2025

The Honorable Representative Marvin L. Abney (via: rep-abney@rilegislature.gov)
Chair, House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

At its meeting held on May 12, 2025 the South Kingstown Town Council considered a resolution in support of House Bill 5393 and Senate Bill 57 relating to sidewalk maintenance along state owned roadways.

After discussion of a concerning situation where RIDOT recently notified the Town of the sidewalk improvements occurring at the Route 1 intersection with Bridgetown Road, it was noted that under the existing General Laws, the new sidewalk leading from one commuter parking field to the other across Bridgetown Road, against the highway, will require maintenance by the Town. Presently, South Kingstown does not have the equipment, particularly crash attenuators, and/or the depth of staffing to maintain infrastructure on the highway. Although the work would be performed at a traffic light, the speed through the zone is far in excess of what we are prepared to address.

The South Kingstown Town Council voted unanimously to support House Bill 5393 and Senate Bill 57 that would require the State of Rhode Island to reassume responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks along state highways, with the exception of snow and ice removal.

We request that you support passage of this legislation in the 2025 session of the General Assembly.

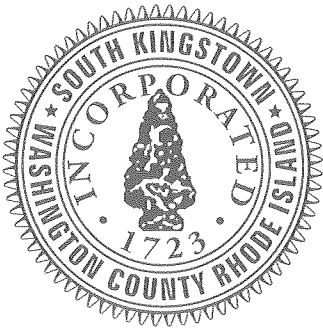
A copy of the Town Council resolution is enclosed for your reference. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Nichole C. Romane
Town Clerk

Enclosures

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee (via: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker (via: Rep-Shekarchi@rilegislature.gov)
Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk (via: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)



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A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S-57 AND HOUSE BILL H-5393 REGARDING THE MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Senate Bill S-57 and House Bill H-5393 will require that maintenance of sidewalks along state highways be the responsibility of the State of Rhode Island Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) already has the authority and funding to properly maintain sidewalks along State Rights of Ways; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns is supportive and advocating for this bill; and

WHEREAS, The RI Public Works Association is supportive of this legislation; and

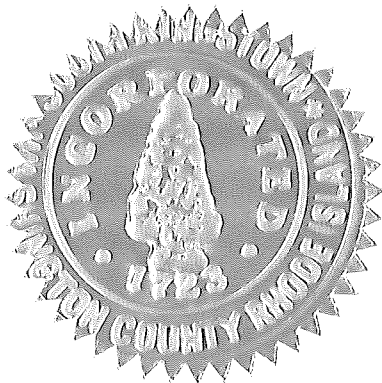
WHEREAS, The South Kingstown Town Council believes that this legislation is in the best interest of the Town of South Kingstown.

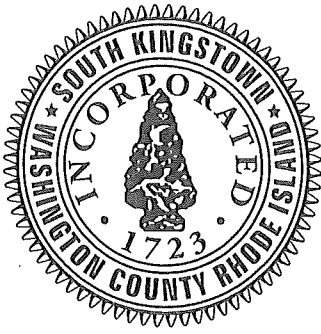
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Kingstown Town Council, does hereby support Senate Bill S-57 and House Bill H-5393, and urges that the Rhode Island General Assembly approve and enact these bills submitted in the January 2025 session.

Adopted this 12th day of May 2025.

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Nichole C. Romane
South Kingstown Town Clerk on behalf of the Town Council





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At a REGULAR SESSION of the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown, County of Washington, in the State of Rhode Island, held at Town Hall, in and for said Town on the 12th day of May A.D., 2025 at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT: Rory H. McEntee, President
Michael K. Marran, Vice President
Patricia A. Alley
Deborah D. Bergner
Jay G. Wegimont

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to support House Bill 5393 and Senate Bill S-57 relating to sidewalk maintenance along state owned roadways as detailed in a memorandum from the Director of Public Services to the Town Manager dated May 6, 2025, entitled "Request to Adopt a Resolution Supporting House Bill 5393 and Senate Bill S-57 Relating to Sidewalk Maintenance Along State Owned Roadways."

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:


Nichole C. Romane, Town Clerk