



TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT
Narragansett Department of Public Works
260 Westmoreland Street
Narragansett, RI 02882
401-782-0687

Director of Public Works
Town of Narragansett
25 Fifth Avenue
Narragansett, RI 02882

April 6, 2026

Chairman and Members
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Support for House Bill 7502 – State Responsibility for Sidewalk Maintenance on State Highways

Dear Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Narragansett, and the Rhode Island Public Works Association, I respectfully urge your support of House Bill 7502, which clarifies the State’s responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks along state highways. The Narragansett Town Council unanimously passed a resolution in April 2025 endorsing this legislation, recognizing the clear need for a more efficient, equitable, and coordinated approach to sidewalk maintenance statewide.

This bill addresses several long-standing concerns shared by municipalities across Rhode Island:

Fairness Across Communities

State-managed sidewalk maintenance on ensures consistent standards and equitable treatment for all cities and towns—regardless of local budgets or staffing capacity.

Enhanced Public Safety

Safe and accessible sidewalks are essential for all residents, especially seniors, children, and individuals with disabilities. Shifting responsibility to the State will support more regular inspection and repair schedules, reducing hazards and liability risks.

Relief for Municipal Budgets

With maintenance—not snow removal—shifted to the State, towns like Narragansett can focus limited resources on other critical infrastructure needs without compromising pedestrian safety.



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Improved Coordination and Efficiency

RIDOT is well-positioned to handle sidewalk maintenance along state highways through integrated planning and cost-effective execution.

We strongly believe this legislation will result in safer, better-maintained pedestrian infrastructure across Rhode Island. Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on matters vital to our communities.

Respectfully,

Stephen L. Daignault Jr.

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Director of Public Works
Town of Narragansett