

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CHARLESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF
RHODE ISLAND HOUSE RESOLUTION H 8298, AUTHORIZING A
\$25,000,000 BOND REFERENDUM TO ADVANCE THE RHODE ISLAND
STATEWIDE BICYCLE MOBILITY PLAN**

The Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, at a duly noticed public meeting, hereby adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, for over forty (40) years, community volunteers and advocates in Charlestown have worked diligently toward the creation of a safe, connected bicycle path in the town, yet funding for such infrastructure has remained elusive; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Charlestown joined a 4-Town Coastal Bikeway Route Committee with representatives from Westerly, South Kingstown, and Narragansett, with the shared goal of developing a Coastal Route Bikeway linking Watch Hill to Narragansett and coordinating efforts to improve each town's competitive position when applying for state and federal grants; and

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the State of Rhode Island adopted the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan, establishing a coordinated twenty (20) year vision to expand safe, connected bicycle infrastructure statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan specifically identifies a future coastal bikeway linking state beaches in Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, and beyond as a critical priority route, noting that progress is dependent on resolving the challenge of crossing Route 1; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan also recognizes Charlestown as a municipality with bicycle-friendly programs and policies that support a culture of cycling; and

WHEREAS, the state has designated Routes 2, 216, 112, and 91 north of Route 1 in Charlestown as roads 'suitable for biking,' while no roads south of Route 1 carry that designation, underscoring the urgent need for infrastructure improvements in the coastal areas most utilized by residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, because the roads in question are state roads, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has an obligation under federal and state law to provide for intermodal transportation, including bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, when planning and reconstructing those roads; and

WHEREAS, intermodal transportation in Charlestown would directly support the town's tourism economy, promote public health through active transportation, and advance the state's climate and transportation goals, including emission-reduction mandates under The Act on Climate; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island House Resolution H 8298, introduced on March 13, 2026, by Representatives Tanzi, Kislak, Fogarty, Carson, Cortvriend, Boylan, Speakman, Donovan, Knight, and Potter, would authorize a twenty-five million dollar (\$25,000,000) bond referendum to be placed before Rhode Island voters at the November 2026 general election, with proceeds designated to fund the planning, design, and implementation of priority projects identified in the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has found that, despite the Bicycle Mobility Plan's twenty (20) year implementation framework adopted in 2020, only approximately 1.7 percent of the plan has been implemented to date, demonstrating a significant gap between adopted statewide goals and actual project delivery; and

WHEREAS, passage of H 8298, placement of the bond question on the November 2026 ballot, and approval by Rhode Island voters would provide a critical and dedicated funding source that could help finance bicycle infrastructure projects in Charlestown and across the state, including those identified in the Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, hereby expresses its strong and unequivocal support for Rhode Island House Resolution H 8298, authorizing a \$25,000,000 bond referendum to support the implementation of the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Charlestown Town Council urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass H 8298 expeditiously, so that this bond question may be placed before Rhode Island voters at the November 2026 general election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Charlestown Town Council calls upon RIDOT to prioritize the coastal bikeway corridor linking Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, and Narragansett — as identified in the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan — as a priority project for funding under any bond proceeds authorized by H 8298.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the President of the Rhode Island Senate, the members of the Rhode Island General Assembly representing the Town of Charlestown, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and the Director of the Rhode Island Division of Planning.

ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, at a duly noticed public meeting held on the 13th day of April, 2026.

ATTEST:

Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC
Amy Rose Weinreich, Town Clerk

