

PROVIDENCE ----- -- STREETS COALITION

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chair McEntee and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 7437 which would extend the authorization of the use of automated traffic violation monitoring systems, including “Don’t Block the Box” systems.

First implemented in 2017 by the State of Rhode Island, “Don’t Block the Box” has been an important tool for maintaining safer, more predictable traffic flow at busy intersections and prohibiting vehicles from blocking the intersection during traffic light changes. When vehicles block intersections during light changes, they create dangerous traffic safety concerns for those navigating on foot, by bike, or by car.

PVD Streets is a nonprofit organization that advocates for safer streets, better transportation choices, and policies that advance mobility justice. Since our founding in 2019, we have been dedicated to ensuring the safety and dignity of people walking, biking, and using public transit in Providence and beyond. According to FHWA, 27% and 38% of pedestrian and bicycle crashes, respectively, occur at intersections. Therefore, we believe that automated enforcement of vehicles obstructing intersections is a common sense strategy to help keep vulnerable road users safe.

Consistent enforcement of this law through traditional means requires a large amount of public safety personnel and resources. Automated enforcement allows for a more reliable and less resource intensive approach to traffic safety. The City of Providence is in the process of procuring a vendor to implement this technology and extending this pilot program will allow for implementation and data collection to evaluate effectiveness.

From a community standpoint, this legislation is necessary to ensure that the program is implemented effectively by changing the behavior that creates unsafe traffic conditions, reducing congestion, and improving quality of life.

I thank the sponsor of this bill and respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of House Bill 7437.

Sincerely,



Dylan Giles
Operations Manager, Providence Streets Coalition