



April 28, 2026

Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

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 this letter in strong support of House Bill 7437, *An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Automated Traffic Violation Monetary Systems*. This legislation would extend the authorization of the use of automated traffic violation monitoring systems, including “Don’t Block the Box.”

In the City of Providence, improving pedestrian and traffic safety remains a key priority for my Administration. First implemented in 2017 by the State of Rhode Island, “Don’t Block the Box” helps protect Providence motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the city by maintaining safe traffic flow at our major intersections and prohibiting vehicles from blocking the intersection during traffic light changes. When violations of “Don’t Block the Box” occur, they create dangerous traffic safety concerns and affect the quality of life of Providence residents and businessowners.

The City of Providence was the first municipality in Rhode Island to begin enforcing violations of “Don’t Block the Box” yet enforcement remains a challenge. Robust enforcement of this law requires a large amount of public safety personnel and resources to properly administer and takes those resources away from more violent or time sensitive crimes they would otherwise be investigating.

Since initial passage, the City of Providence has explored technology and vendors that could provide for automated enforcement of this law and is in the process of procuring a vendor to do so. Extending the timing of this pilot program will allow for the City to implement the program fully and collect ample data to be presented to the committee to confirm effectiveness. Passing this legislation will allow the city to make progress in changing the behavior that creates unsafe traffic conditions while ultimately improving the quality of life of business owners and residents.

I thank Representative Slater for sponsoring this critical legislation and I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of House Bill 7437.

Sincerely,


Brett P. Smiley
Mayor