

Dear House Municipal Government and Housing Committee members,

I am writing to ask you to support bill H-7658 which would prohibit heavy truck traffic on a short stretch of Rt. 114A Pleasant Street, East Providence between the state line and Pawtucket Avenue.

This road is a strictly a residential area that also fronts a small park owned by the city. There are at least 2 school buses that make a stop at the corner of Pleasant St and Sylvan Road every morning and afternoon of school days.

There are no sidewalks or curbs on this road to help the many pedestrians stay safe. There are no crosswalks, although one has been approved and the signs have been in place since October, but the traffic is not slowing or stopping for those of us who need to cross.

The local bridge at Hunts Mills was completely reconstructed just a year ago and that brought more traffic this way once barriers that had lined the road for several years were removed. Now since the disruption with the Washington Bridge, even more traffic is using this portion of 114A to avoid that bridge congestion. And very few motorists of any vehicles are driving close to the posted speed limit. Both pedestrians like myself and motorists trying to exit the local roads or driveways fear that the heavy trucks, in particular, will have trouble stopping when they need to do so for pedestrians or vehicles that stop for pedestrians.

Most roads that carry such large, heavy vehicles have fewer walkers while providing them sidewalks and crosswalks to attempt to keep people safe. Heavy vehicles can easily use Taunton Avenue and Pawtucket Avenue to get to and from 195 and other destinations.

Thank you for carefully considering this important safety matter. This issue is of special importance to me as my grandkids live on the opposite side of our neighborhood and I cross this road numerous times a day to care for them and they wait at the corner of Pleasant and Sylvan for those school buses. Those of us in the 114A Pleasant Street neighborhood truly appreciate your consideration of this issue.

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