



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Support for H8012 – Rhode Island Pedestrian Safety Act

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 8012, *An Act Relating to Motor and other Vehicles – Rhode Island Pedestrian Safety Act*, which would provide municipalities with an additional tool to improve safety on our roadways and better protect pedestrians in our communities.

In the City of Providence, we have seen firsthand the devastating consequences of traffic accidents. In recent years, pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries have underscored the urgent need to take a comprehensive, data-driven approach to street safety. Each of these tragic incidents has a profound impact on families and a reminder that we must continue to do more to make our streets safe for everyone.

In Providence, we have invested in traffic calming, redesigned dangerous corridors, and strengthened enforcement strategies through tools like automated speed cameras. However, no single approach is sufficient on its own. To meaningfully reduce injuries and save lives, we must leverage every available resource, including modern technology and proven tools that can enhance our ability to promote safer driving behaviors.

H8012 provides municipalities with the flexibility to deploy automated enforcement in targeted locations where data shows the greatest risk. This is a commonsense approach grounded in prevention that has been used in jurisdictions across the country. These tools can help ensure consistent, equitable enforcement while allowing law enforcement to focus on more serious public safety needs. Importantly, this legislation empowers cities and towns to make decisions based on local conditions and safety priorities. By expanding the toolkit available to municipalities, Rhode Island can take meaningful action to reduce preventable crashes and protect residents, visitors and families who rely on our streets every day.

I respectfully urge your support for H8012. Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions.

Sincerely,


Brett Smiley
Mayor