



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-222-2481
Fax 401-222-2086
www.dot.ri.gov

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chairperson
House Committee on State Government & Elections
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2024 H 7757 – AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS – SCENIC HIGHWAYS

Dear Chairman Shanley:

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) respectfully submits this letter of support. RIDOT submitted this legislative proposal and feel it is an important piece of legislation.

With the passage of this bill into law the scenic roadway board membership would change from 11 members to 9 members. This would change the Governor's public appointees from 6 members to 4 members. With these changes in place, it will be easier to achieve a quorum.

The Scenic Roadway Board is composed of Senate-confirmed members representing the general public, RI Builders Association, and Grow Smart Rhode Island as well as RIDOT and RI Department of Environmental Management designees, and the chair of the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. The board meets routinely to review applications for alteration within the right-of-way of the nine state and locally owned scenic roadways. A project is approved if there is no adverse effect on the scenic resources or characteristics of the scenic road or approved with conditions to mitigate the adverse effect. Any delay in reviewing and approving could impact a road project, as well as any other development along these roadways. This can happen if a quorum cannot be met.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections
The Honorable Justine A. Caldwell
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House