



more, better & safer bicycling

March 31, 2026

Bari Freeman
Executive Director

To: Chair Shanley and members of the House Committee on State and Government Elections

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RE: Support for H7576: Relating to Access to Public Records

Peter Coriander
Board Chair

Dear Chair Shanley and Honorable Members of the House Committee on State and Government Elections

Guillermo Rojas
Vice Chair

Chyleene O'Connor
Secretary

I am writing to express Bike Newport's support for House Bill H7576 and to thank Representatives Kislak, Potter, Serpa, Cortvriend, McGaw, Boylan, Caldwell, Cotter, Spears, and Carson for sponsoring legislation that will make crash data publicly available in Rhode Island.

Peter Friedrichs
Treasurer

According to RIDOT's FY2025 Highway Safety Improvement Program Annual Report, 556 people were killed and 2,664 were seriously injured in traffic crashes in Rhode Island between 2016 and 2024. Because RIDOT does not grant public access to crash records, very little else is known about these tragedies and life-changing events.

Jennifer Amaral
Melissa Bodnar
James Bracey

Akeia de Barros Gomes

Brenda Delasanta
Nicholas Del Greco

Kaitlyn Ellis
Jim Fry

Donald Hartley
Stacy Hennessey


Paige Myatt
Robert Penha

42 other states make these records available to the public¹. In Massachusetts, MassDOT maintains their own publicly available data portals so anyone can see where crashes are occurring. Rhode Island should not remain a national outlier.

On Aquidneck Island, advocates, residents, and municipalities have difficulty accessing this essential information. Crash data helps to inform local safety improvements that address dangerous roads and intersections in our communities. Access to this data will empower community leaders to continue working towards safe streets for all road users.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and participants of Bike Newport, thank you for your consideration, and always for your service,

With best regards,


Bari Freeman, Executive Director

¹ <https://vtc.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/NJSPL-Crash-Data-Availability-Sept-2025.pdf>