

Resolution of the Council

Town of Middletown

Resolution no. 2025- 34

**Resolution in Support of Rhode Island Senate Bill 2025-S 0057 and House Bill 2025-H 5393
Relating to Sidewalk Maintenance on State Highways**

WHEREAS, safe, accessible, and well-maintained sidewalks are essential for the mobility, safety, and well-being of all Rhode Island residents, including seniors, students, persons with disabilities, and pedestrians of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2025-S 0057 and House Bill 2025-H 5393 propose to amend Rhode Island General Laws to clarify that the State of Rhode Island shall be responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks along state highways, with the exception of snow and ice removal; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across Rhode Island, including the Town of Middletown, are often financially and operationally burdened by the requirement to maintain sidewalks along state-controlled highways, diverting limited local resources from other essential public services; and

WHEREAS, assigning maintenance responsibility to the State will promote consistent standards for repair and upkeep, improve pedestrian safety, ensure uniformity across municipal boundaries, and allow towns and cities to better allocate resources to other critical infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and several municipal leaders have publicly supported this legislation, recognizing that sidewalk maintenance on state roads is fundamentally a state responsibility tied to the state's transportation infrastructure; and

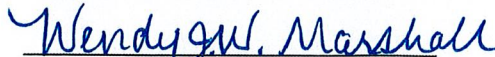
WHEREAS, the Town Council of Middletown finds that the passage of Senate Bill 2025-S 0057 and House Bill 2025-H 5393 would benefit local taxpayers, enhance public safety, and support the Town's long-term transportation and accessibility goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of Middletown, Rhode Island, hereby formally endorses and supports the passage of Senate Bill 2025-S 0057 and House Bill 2025-H 5393, "An Act Relating to Highways – Sidewalks," urging the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact this important legislation during the 2025 session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Middletown's delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor.

May 5, 2025

READ AND PASSED IN COUNCIL



Wendy J. W. Marshall, MMC
Town Clerk