

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION # 2019-02-11A

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RIDOT TO REJECT THE PROPOSED CUTS TO THE
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)

WHEREAS, Major Amendment #11 to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) presented by RIDOT to the State Transportation Advisory Committee on January 24th includes a 33% cut to Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects over four years, which includes bicycle, pedestrian, and road safety projects; and

WHEREAS, TAP projects comprise 23% of the state's proposed transportation budget cuts but only 2.5% of the state's approved transportation budget; and

WHEREAS, the 35 projects statewide proposed to be reduced or eliminated include Aquidneck Island Bikeway Melville Connector (\$2.16M), the Mount Hope Bay Bike Improvements (\$160k), and the East Main Road Shared Use Path (\$3M); and

WHEREAS, 20% of the statewide TAP reduction comes from eliminating bicycle and pedestrian projects in Portsmouth that are considered by this Council as urgent and long overdue improvements to road user safety; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Amendment eliminates a \$5M Bicycle Improvements Contingency Account funded by the 2016 Green Economy Bond, which was approved by 68% of voters, and such funds should not be redirected to highway or any project not part of the voter-approved bond; and

WHEREAS, the Portsmouth Town Council believes that improvements to road user safety in our community are requirements for a safe, healthy community and economy; and

WHEREAS, the TIP process is designed for the state and municipalities to work together to strategically plan use of transportation funds and this relatively sudden and unexplained proposal dismisses significant prior work by municipal staff and contractors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Portsmouth Town Council requests that the Transportation Advisory Committee and the State Planning Council reject the proposed TIP Amendment #11 and requests that the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) address the transportation budget shortfall within the more robust highway and pavement projects and leave the already underfunded Transportation Alternative Program intact. Furthermore, we request that RIDOT consider every road project a Complete Streets project, and work to maximize the safety of all road users by accounting for motorized traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians in every road design.

LET IT BE KNOWN, that this resolution was passed and adopted by the Portsmouth Town Council on 11th day of February, 2019.

Kevin Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk