

DRAFT: January 4, 2021

**Resolution Respectfully Requesting a RI Department of Transportation
Safety Audit of West Main Road**

WHEREAS, West Main Road is one of two main arterial roads serving the Town of Portsmouth and Aquidneck Island and is also a major evacuation route for island residents;

WHEREAS, West Main Road is a state maintained road;

WHEREAS, between September 1, 2018, and November 17, 2019, there were 168 accidents, 3,910 citations, and 52 injuries;

WHEREAS, between September 1, 2019 and November 17, 2020, there were 110 accidents, 4,228 citations, and 20 injuries;

WHEREAS, there have been fatal and near fatal accidents on West Main Road in the past six years;

WHEREAS, Portsmouth Town Officials and residents are very concerned about excessive speeding, turning movements, road conditions, and other safety issues on West Main Road that potentially endanger all road users including vulnerable ones such as pedestrians and bicyclists;

WHEREAS, although Portsmouth Police have improved safety through increased surveillance, other measures are required insofar as the number of accidents, citations and injuries remain unacceptably high and no doubt will increase after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides;

WHEREAS, short-term and long-term safety and mitigation measures should be implemented to reduce the number and severity of accidents on West Main Road and there are federal and state programs directed at studying and possibly funding such measures; and

WHEREAS, the RI Department of Transportation, at the request of the Portsmouth Town Council and Police Department, has completed an East Main Road Safety Assessment (RSA) in December 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Portsmouth Town Council requests the State of Rhode Island Department of Transportation to conduct a Road Safety Assessment of West Main Road, similar to the East Main Road RSA, with the involvement of Town officials and the broader community to study and possibly fund projects to minimize future harm to our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT certain safety measures that have been previously identified by state or local officials, such as the crosswalk at Hedley, be implemented on an expedited schedule.

Approved _____

Signed _____