

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI  
RESOLUTION #2021-02-08**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE  
AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS  
WITHIN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

WHEREAS: The safety of motorists and pedestrians along East Main Road and West Main Road and other state and local roads in the Town of Portsmouth has long been a matter of great concern to the Town and its citizens; and

WHEREAS: In 2014, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) installed a “road diet” on Bristol Ferry Road, as approved by the State Traffic Commission, in an effort to improve traffic safety on that state road; and

WHEREAS: As requested by a 2019 Resolution of the Town Council, in 2020 RIDOT conducted a Roadway Safety Assessment of East Main Road from Turnpike Avenue to the Middletown town line; and

WHEREAS: RIDOT’s report was presented to the Town Council in August 2020; and

WHEREAS: RIDOT’s report identified numerous safety issues and concerns, and determined that a road diet was not a feasible option to improve safety on East Main Road; and

WHEREAS: In January 2021, the Town Council adopted a Resolution requesting RIDOT to conduct a Roadway Safety Assessment for West Main Road due to a long history of safety concerns; and

WHEREAS: Speeding by motorists on East Main Road, West Main Road, and other roads in Portsmouth has been, and continues to be, a significant problem endangering the safety of the traveling public and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 2021 -- S 0064 has been introduced in the current session of the Rhode Island General Assembly; and

WHEREAS: This legislation would amend R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 31-41.3 to authorize the use of automated speed-enforcement systems on all state and local roads within the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS: The Town Council believes that the enactment of this legislation would provide law enforcement authorities with an important and effective additional tool to enforce the speeding laws, which would deter speeding and greatly enhance public safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portsmouth Town Council hereby requests and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass and enact Senate Bill 2021 -- S 0064 and any companion legislation that may be introduced in the House of Representatives, to amend R.I.

Gen. Laws Chapter 31-41.3 to authorize the use of automated speed-enforcement systems on all state and local roads within the State of Rhode Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk submit a copy of this Resolution to the Town of Portsmouth's State Senator and Representatives, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Rhode Island Governor, and every Rhode Island municipality.

Adopted this \_\_ day of February, 2021.

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Kevin M. Aguiar, President  
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk