

CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION

OF THE

COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, the Newport City Council in Resolution 2010-130 expressed its support of the Complete Streets initiative developed by the Rhode Island AARP, becoming the first city in New England to adopt the use of the design concept in the planning and redevelopment of transportation related infrastructure improvements within the City of Newport; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island General Assembly in 2012 enacted House Bill H7532 that requires the State of Rhode Island to consider Complete Street design features whenever the State constructs or modifies state roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are designed and operated to facilitate safe travel by all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders, as well as all motorists; and

WHEREAS, the recent death of a bicyclist on Memorial Boulevard in Newport, a roadway that falls under the purview of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), has resulted in a community discussion of unsafe conditions related to vehicular speed and road-sharing opportunities on that and other State roadways in Newport and a call to investigate roadway conditions and to identify opportunities for improvement to more safely accommodate cyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, RIDOT has responded to a request from Representative Peter Martin to conduct an investigation with a pledge to promptly examine roadway conditions and address opportunities for improvement; and

WHEREAS, bicycling is an important part of resident and tourist life in Newport and State roadways in Newport are extensively used by cyclists for recreation and transportation; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Council applauds RIDOT plans to conduct an investigation of cyclist safety issues on Memorial Boulevard. We asks that the RIDOT investigation be expanded to address other safety issues, specifically those related to cyclists and pedestrians, on all State roadways within the City of Newport, and that its investigation consider Complete Street design concepts in identifying actions that can be taken to improve safe use of these roadways by everyone. RIDOT is also asked to conduct a public hearing in Newport on this matter to provide an opportunity for our residents to share their experiences and concerns regarding cyclist and pedestrian safety issues so that community input can be used in developing an improvement plan.

Justin S. McLaughlin
Jeanne-Marie Napolitano
Naomi Neville
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IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED

Kathleen M. Silvia
City Clerk