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February 24, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2025 H-5220 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES – CCPRA- POLICE RELATIONSHIP ACT OF 2015

Dear Chairman, Craven:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of concern regarding H-5220.

RIDOT fully supports efforts to advance equity and fairness in transportation policy. However, our primary role under state law is the construction and maintenance of Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure. The objectives of this legislation would be more effectively managed by an agency with core expertise in civil rights, inclusion, and diversity.

Additionally, previous studies related to CCPRA were funded through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant to RIDOT. While some funds remain, they are insufficient to complete the required study, and future federal funding for such projects is uncertain. Given the uncertainty with future Federal funds for projects of this nature, we are very concerned that this project could have a funding issue in its current form. If guaranteed additional Federal funds from NHTSA are not available, the RIDOT does not have adequate funding to support this legislation.

We strongly recommend that the bill include a designated funding source to ensure feasibility.

We encourage the committee to consider both the need for dedicated funding and the alignment of responsibilities to ensure the best outcome for this initiative.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti Jr., P.E.
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Edith H. Ajello
Nicole McCarty Esq., Chief of Legal Counsel