

August 5th, 2025

Dear Chair Cupo and Members of the Legislation Committee,

My name is Mehul Dalal, a resident of New Haven and Board Member of the New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation (NCAT). I am writing to express my strong support for the creation of a **Pedestrian Safety Zone Work Group**.

In my previous role as the Community Services Administrator for the City, I saw first hand how healthy street life can facilitate resilience, safety, and community connections. **Pedestrian Safety Zones** can be an important part of the City's strategy to foster a healthy and inclusive community.

The City is in a good position to utilize the authority granted to municipalities by **Connecticut Public Act 21-28**. This legislation empowers Connecticut municipalities to establish "Pedestrian Safety Zones" to lower speed limits in designated areas (near community centers, hospitals, and downtown districts), in many cases the law allows municipalities to do so without extensive state approval. The law stipulates that municipalities conduct traffic studies to support the creation of such zones. The studies would allow for broader consideration of traffic infrastructure that aligns with desired speed limits.

The benefits of creating such zones and implementing lower speed limits extend beyond simply reducing crashes and severity of injury. These zones can contribute to a higher quality of life by: 1) Making our streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists, children, older adults, and people who use assistive devices, 2) Encouraging more active transportation, which has positive impacts on public health, equity, and environmental sustainability, 3) creating more inviting and accessible downtowns and community centers where people feel comfortable walking, cycling, or use of other non-motorized transportation 4) contributing to state and city goals to eliminate transportation-related injuries and fatalities (a.k.a. Complete Streets, Vision Zero).

I urge you to approve the creation of the Pedestrian Safety Zone Work Group. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mehul Dalal, Board Member, New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation

<https://www.ncat-ct.org/>