



Boston City Council

Erin J. Murphy

Councilor At-Large

July 31, 2025

The Honorable Jay D. Livingstone
State Representative

Senator Brendan P. Crighton
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation

Representative James Arciero
House Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation

And Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Livingstone, Senator Crighton, Representative Arciero, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3731, *An Act to Enhance Pedestrian Safety*, and to commend Representative Jay D. Livingstone for his leadership as the bill's lead sponsor. As an At-Large City Councilor in Boston, pedestrian and sidewalk safety is a critical issue that I have consistently championed across our city.

Through my work on the City Council, I have heard directly from countless residents who face daily frustrations and dangers navigating our streets. Many have shared heartbreaking stories of near misses and unsafe conditions—challenges made worse by the low cap on pedestrian injury claims and the often-overlooked 30-day time limit to file claims. These constraints leave many injured residents feeling ignored and powerless.

On a personal note, my own father, age 91, has fallen twice in recent months on cracked sidewalks right outside his home. Walking has been his key to maintaining independence, and he should be able to do so safely. While I am deeply grateful for the first responders who have come quickly to his aid, it is clear that navigating sidewalks in poor repair is not simply an inconvenience. For elderly residents and those with mobility challenges, unsafe sidewalks severely limit their ability to stay connected and independent.

This bill addresses critical gaps in our system by raising awareness, increasing accountability, and ultimately making our streets safer for all. I deeply appreciate that the legislation seeks to better protect pedestrians, who are among the most vulnerable road users, especially seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children.

At the local level, I have advocated for expanded sidewalk repairs, better lighting, traffic calming measures, and increased community outreach to ensure safe passage for every Bostonian. The urgency of this work cannot be overstated, and your bill will be a vital step in amplifying these efforts statewide.

Please know you have my full support as you advance this important legislation. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you and my colleagues across Massachusetts to make our streets safer and more accessible for all residents.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin J. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin
At-Large City Councilor, Boston

J.

Murphy