



## ***Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives***

Robert "Gabe" DeLuca, Co-Chair    Rodney Pratt, Co-Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Transportation Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Co-Chair Pratt and Committee Member Reps., Giordano, Moore and Patterson. Absent or excused were Co-Chair DeLuca and Committee Members Reps. Di Costanzo and Franzetti. Also present were Reps. McMullen, Liebson, Stella and Zelinsky; Kathryn Emmett, Legal Department; A. Gallagher, Police Department and James Travers, Transportation Bureau Chief and members of the public.

Co-Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:10

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">T29.073</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Prohibition of Pedestrians crossing the street while using mobile electronic devices. 08/09/17 – Submitted by Reps. Zelinsky, Mitchell, de la Cruz, Savage, Summerville, Liebson, Silver, Nabel, Coleman, Fedeli, Ryan, Heaphy and Di Costanzo. 08/31/17 – Approved by Committee <b>09/05/17 – Returned to Committee by Full Board</b>	No Action Taken

Rep. Zelinsky explained:

- This ordinance is for the safety of our City
- States the Mayor, Law Department and the DSSD is in favor of the ordinance

Mr. Travers:

- Commends Zelinsky for trying to keep the City safe.
- He feels like there are others way to enforce pedestrian safety.
- His goal is to have a more pedestrian friendly City and feels that this can be accomplished by an education campaign.
- They should capitalize on the Stamford Street Smart Program and partner with the Police Department and do it in a proactive way.
- This campaign should include all road users: drivers, cyclist and pedestrians
- The City has been making steps to make City streets safe by applying for and was awarded funding for an accident reduction program for improvements for lower Summer Street.
- They piloted the pedestrian indicator which gives the pedestrian more seconds to get across the street and this has been a success.
- They are collecting data from all intersections with signal lights in Stamford to create

- synchronization so that cars won't speed up for lights.
- Efforts are better spent on education and to look at the infrastructure of the roads to make more pedestrian friendly.
- If you fine a pedestrian for having a phone in their hand it does not create a pedestrian safe City.
- The Department asked for a new position for a traffic analyst to be funded, it was denied but the position would have looked at the exact data strategically to address pedestrian safety

Rep. Giordano asked if the citation and enforcement procedures in the ordinance are correct. Ms. Emmett stated there are issues with the Citation procedures because it calls for a warning to be issued first, so therefore it will be hard to enforce.

Sgt. Gallagher:

- Spoke with the States Attorney about the current way the ordinance was written and it is not enforceable
- They cannot issue a \$30 fine; minimal fine for first offense would be \$50; second offense \$90 minimal
- States Attorney feels there are sufficient state statues that cover this ordinance.
- They enforce reckless use of the highway of a pedestrian; which is a criminal arrest second offense; first offense \$92.00
- Does not suggest Civil Citation Officers to give out warnings or tickets
- Cell phone usage minor cause of pedestrian accidents
- There are reasons to take a quick look at your phone
- If you are walking downtown you do not have to have ID
- Enforcement of walking pedestrians can increase possible altercations

There being no motion to pass this ordinance, Co-Chair Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rodney Pratt, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).