Re: Proposed Ordinance Regulating Pedestrian Use of Medians (B265-25)

To: Mayor Buffaloe, and City Council

We write to offer comments on Council Bill B265-25, which would establish new regulations on pedestrian and motorist behavior along major corridor roadways and intersections. After reviewing the proposed ordinance and the accompanying council memo, the Commission does not anticipate any major impacts on transit operations. The ordinance does not alter bus routing, stop placement, or bus-related passenger activity, and its provisions do not create new operational constraints for fixed-route or paratransit service.

Because all transit passengers begin and end their trips as pedestrians, the Commission emphasizes that investments in pedestrian infrastructure, particularly near bus stops, will have a far greater impact on pedestrian safety than the proposed ordinance. The council memo notes the identification of 47 pedestrian crash areas associated with high-speed, high-volume corridors with narrow medians. These corridors substantially overlap with transit corridors and major bus stop locations. Improvements such as enhanced crosswalks, accessible curb ramps, tightened intersection geometry, median refuge islands, and continuous sidewalks would directly improve safety outcomes for bus riders and other pedestrians.

PTAC would welcome the opportunity to provide additional input on which pedestrian infrastructure investments could be most impactful. Our recent Bus Stop Evaluation Matrix work, combined with findings from the Street and Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study referenced in the council memo, positions the Commission to advise on a priority list of locations and improvements that would meaningfully reduce pedestrian risk while supporting safe access to transit.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed ordinance. We remain available to assist the Council in any next steps regarding transit-adjacent pedestrian safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Transit Advisory Commission