



Richard Smith  
First Selectman, Town of Deep River  
President, Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the  
Planning & Development Committee  
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For Connecticut's small towns, investment in infrastructure is critical to our economic vitality, public health and safety. Sidewalks are an important component of that infrastructure, helping to improve the safety of residents and create more walkable communities.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) therefore supports **HB-5966, An Act Authorizing Fees in Lieu of Sidewalk Construction.**

Under current law, towns are authorized to require sidewalks within new developments even though sidewalks may not be needed in the area, such as a cul-de-sac. HB-5966 will **permit municipalities to accept a fee in lieu of required sidewalks in new developments to assist towns in funding sidewalks needed in other areas of town.**

HB-5966 will help fund safe routes for pedestrians in areas where they are needed the most. We therefore urge your support for HB-5966.

*COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns. More information is available at [www.ctcost.org](http://www.ctcost.org)*