



Office of the Town Manager
Judson Rex

Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor
Roy Francis, Ward 1
William Semple, Ward 2
Larry Kovalik, Ward 3
Michele O'Halloran, Ward 4
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5
Paul Mooney, At Large
David McGuire, At Large

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	September 8, 2026
Agenda Title:	Pedestrian Safety Ordinance
Requested Action:	Receive the Information
Department / Agency Lead:	Police
Staff Lead:	Timothy M. Carter, Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Town Council initiated the creation of an ordinance focused on pedestrian safety regarding solicitation activities occurring in Town medians, intersections, and other areas affected by and which affect vehicle traffic.

BACKGROUND

There has been an increase in the number of individuals soliciting funds at Town medians and public street intersections. People occupying highways to interact with motor-vehicle occupants may create driver distraction, sudden stopping, lane obstruction, impaired sight lines, and increased risk of pedestrian injury. This ordinance seeks to provide content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral regulation directed at the location and conduct associated with interactions between persons in highways and vehicle occupants with the stated purpose of protecting pedestrian and traffic safety.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive the information and provide recommendation to staff.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

The ordinance would establish a local regulatory framework administered and enforced by the Town. The Town Manager or designee would be responsible for installing and maintaining signs in the general areas where operation is prohibited. The Chief of Police and other appropriate Town officials are authorized to enforce and administer the ordinance according to its express terms.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

CF-2: Public safety services and policies are viewed as amongst the best in similar Virginia towns for responsiveness, community trust, and effectiveness.

T-1: Improve Multimodal Capacity and Safety that Encourages trips by walking, bicycling, and transit.

T-1-5: Create an overarching vision for roadway safety through the development and adoption of a traffic safety policy.

Fiscal Impact

Potential implementation activities include development of enforcement guidance and training, public notices, signage, and recordkeeping. Signage costs would be dependent on the total number of signs to be erected but would generally cost approximately \$30-100 per sign for the physical panel. Enforcement guidance and training would be absorbed by the Police Department budget. Public notices would be absorbed by the budgets of Town Hall and/or the Police Department, depending on the initiator.

Legal Impact

The ordinance states that it is adopted pursuant to the Town's general police powers, traffic-safety authority, and authority to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the Town, including applicable authority under Titles 15.2 and 46.2 of the Code of Virginia. The ordinance requires content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral enforcement and expressly prohibits enforcement based on a person's message, viewpoint, identity, cause, charitable status, economic status, religion, political affiliation, or reason for requesting or giving assistance.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026.8.23 Draft Ordinance 2026-13 Pedestrian Safety in Roadways and Median Strips
- 2.
- 3.