

09/21/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 36-0385

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

September 21, 2026

An act enacting pedestrian safety measures at the former Addelita Cancryn Junior High School pedestrian bridge

PROPOSED BY: Senator Avery L. Lewis

WHEREAS, the former Addelita Cancryn Junior High School suffered severe damage during the 2017 hurricanes;

WHEREAS, students were subsequently moved to share modular spaces with Lockhart Elementary School;

WHEREAS, for the 2023–2024 school year, Addelita Cancryn formally merged with Lockhart Primary School to become the Lockhart K-8 School;

WHEREAS, structural demolition of the former Addelita Cancryn Junior High School property on Veterans Drive began in early 2026 by the Virgin Islands Port Authority to clear the land for the Charlotte Amalie Harbor dredging project;

WHEREAS, the former pedestrian bridge at the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School was removed due to deterioration;

WHEREAS, the former pedestrian bridge at the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School provided a dedicated pedestrian crossing facility along a heavily travelled roadway;

1 **WHEREAS**, the area continues to be traversed by pedestrians, motorists, children,
2 seniors, and individuals with disabilities;

3 **WHEREAS**, the absence of an adequate pedestrian crossing system at the site of the
4 former pedestrian bridge creates a need for a safe, highly visible, and accessible alternative;
5 Now, Therefore,

6 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

7 **SECTION 1.** (a) The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending
8 September 30, 2027, from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund to the Department of
9 Public Works for the installation of modern electronic pedestrian crossing systems and roadway
10 restriping in the vicinity of the former Addelita Cancryn Junior High School and Veterans
11 Drive.

12 (b) The installation must include:

- 13 (1) ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities;
- 14 (2) accessible curb ramps;
- 15 (3) detectable warning surfaces;
- 16 (4) accessible pedestrian approaches;
- 17 (5) high-visibility crosswalk markings,
- 18 (6) lane markings;
- 19 (7) signage;
- 20 (8) traffic control markings;
- 21 (9) appropriate lighting;
- 22 (10) advance warning signage to increase pedestrian visibility, particularly during
23 nighttime and periods of reduced visibility; and
- 24 (11) any other improvements necessary to provide a safe and accessible pedestrian
25 route.

(c) The Department of Public Works shall utilize current, proven, and cost-effective pedestrian safety technology and shall consider reliability, maintenance requirements, availability of replacement parts, life-cycle costs, and long-term sustainability when selecting equipment. All improvements shall comply, as applicable, with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and applicable federal and Virgin Islands standards and regulations.

(d) The Department of Public Works shall coordinate with appropriate engineering, accessibility, emergency response, and other governmental personnel as necessary to ensure that the project provides the highest practical level of pedestrian safety and accessibility.

(e) The Department of Public Works shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining the improvements authorized by this act. Traffic-control devices and roadway markings installed under this act shall be maintained in accordance with applicable department standards.

SECTION 2. Within 120 days after the effective date of this act, the Commissioner of Public Works shall submit a report to the chairman of the appropriate legislative committee outlining the proposed improvements, anticipated costs, selected technology, accessibility features, implementation schedule, and anticipated completion date.

SECTION 3. Upon completion of the project, the Department of Public Works shall submit a final report to the President of the Legislature identifying the improvements completed and the total amount expended.

SECTION 4. The funds appropriated in section 1 remain available until expended.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill enacts the “Addelita Cancryn Junior High School Pedestrian Protection Act” and appropriates \$100,000 from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund, in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, to the Department of Public Works, for the installation of modern

- 1 electronic pedestrian crossing systems and roadway restriping in the vicinity of the former
- 2 Addelita Cancryn Junior High School and Veterans Drive.
- 3 **BR26-1307/September 18, 2026/PFA**