Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write in support of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation's (RIDOT) application to the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant for the Route 6/10 Interchange Project (Interchange).

Located in Providence, Rhode Island, the Interchange is a major transportation artery within a regional highway and freight surface network. The existing system of highways, bridges, and ramps was constructed in the 1950s, and can no longer accommodate the approximately 100,000 automobiles and heavy trucks that travel on it each day. At least seven bridges in the Interchange have been identified as structurally deficient and need immediate attention in order to maintain public safety.

RIDOT's application addresses growing local and regional transportation needs by proposing repairs to highway infrastructure, enhancements to local quality of life in urban areas, and improvements to local and regional transportation freight distribution networks. Funding would allow RIDOT to repair structurally deficient bridges and reconfigure the Interchange to accommodate local and express travel lanes. The Interchange project will also reconnect neighborhoods through pedestrian, bicycle and other urban transit enhancements.

We strongly support RIDOT's application and respectfully request your full and fair consideration of this proposal within all applicable rules and regulations. If we can be of assistance to you in this matter, please feel free to contact our offices. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

April 14, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Director Alviti:

I am writing to express my strong support for RIDOT's FASTLANE grant application to advance the construction of a new and innovative Route 6/10 Interchange in the City of Providence. I endorse RIDOT's thoughtful approach for rebuilding the interchange while incorporating multiple uses. RIDOT's approach maintains an important regional expressway, while improving bicycle and pedestrian access in the host community and beyond. In addition, the project's design will improve the health of the local economy, create land development opportunities, enhance open space, and allow for future transit expansion.

The design addresses multiple infrastructure needs in a fiscally responsible way, while providing recreational space to connect two local communities. The approach also allows this interchange of regional significance to continue to serve the nearly 100,000 daily users from Providence, neighboring towns, and beyond. Finally, this project is vitally important to improving traffic flow on the streets of Olneyville, enhancing circulation for residents, and providing the access needed for local businesses to thrive.

A comprehensive rebuild of the 6/10 Interchange is long overdue. I am pleased that the recently enacted RhodeWorks initiative has provided the state with sufficient local funding to help secure federal funding for this project. We must seize this opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure and begin to reconnect the local neighborhoods. I fully support RIDOT's FASTLANE grant application and look forward to advancing the reconstruction of this critical transportation infrastructure in our state today.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

REPRESENTATIVE
NICHOLAS A. MATTIELLO
Speaker of the House

Room 323 State House
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

401-222-2466

House of Representatives

April 13, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E., Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Director Alviti,

On behalf of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, we are writing to express our strong support for RIDOT's "Fast Lane" federal grant application for the 6/10 Interchange Project. I endorse RIDOT's hybrid approach which rebuilds the interchange in a manner that maintains a stoplight-free expressway, while still improving bicycle and pedestrian access in the host community. I am particularly pleased that the project's design will create land that can be developed in Providence, improve open space and allow for future transit expansion. This significantly increases the potential for future economic development in an area of the state where it is much needed.

We believe the design represents a cost-effective means of addressing multiple infrastructure needs. Your approach allows the infrastructure to continue to serve the nearly 100,000 daily users, and builds the "missing connection" from Route 10 Northbound to Route 6 Westbound. This project is vitally important to decongesting throughway traffic from the streets of Olneyville, thereby providing improved circulation for residents who live and work in that part of Providence and improved access for local businesses to thrive.

Reconstruction of the 6/10 Interchange is long overdue. The current state of the Route 6/10 Interchange requires significant and costly repair. The recent passage of RhodeWorks legislation has positioned the state with sufficient local funding to help secure federal funding for the project. Finally, addressing this bottleneck in our state's highway system is critical to maintaining the state's transportation network in a safe state of good repair.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Mattiello
SPEAKER

John J. DeSimone
MAJORITY LEADER

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN R. UCCI, *District 42*

April 12, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director/RIDOT
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Re: RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application
Route 6/10 Interchange Reconstruction & Reconnection Project

Dear Director Alviti:

I write today to express my support for RIDOT'S FASTLANE Grant Application to advance and construct a new and innovative route 6/10 interchange in the City of Providence, specifically the hybrid design which incorporates green space above the interchange. The residents of my district are heavy users of this interchange as a throughway to Interstates 95, 195 and Route 10 South. The current road is overcrowded and unsafe. The structure, as your team has pointed out, is in deplorable condition. As I understand it, even the temporary braces are deteriorating.

The US Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (FASTLANE) is a perfect fit for the design and upgrade of this failing system. Not only can the current road be rebuilt, but it can also accommodate much needed rapid transit to alleviate crowded roads and offer commuters more transportation options. In talking with my constituents, they would be thrilled with the option of a rapid direct bus into downtown Providence.

I appreciate DOT's open approach to inform and discuss this project with the public. This dialogue has created a much better design. I understand that there are still some people who wish to essentially eliminate the 6/10 interchange and replace it with surface city streets. This is not an option for my constituents and the other 90,000 plus commuters who use these roads every day. My colleagues who have asked to sign this letter agree with me.

I enthusiastically support RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application. I look forward to working with you and your Department on this vital project. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Best Regards,

Stephen R. Ucci
State Representative
District 42-Johnston/Cranston

SRU:mjb

12 EAST SCENIC VIEW DRIVE, JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02919
TEL. 401.934.2121

Represenative Joseph Almeida

Representative Deborah Fellela

Representative John Carnevale

Representative Anastasia Williams

Representative John Lombardi

Representative Gregory Costantino

Representative Michael Chippendale

Representative Robert Jacquard

Representative Charlene Lima

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Representative William O'Brien

Representative Arthur Corvese

Representative Scott Slater

Representative Grace Diaz

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Senate Chamber

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APR - 8 2016
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 7, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Director
Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

RE: RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application
Route 6/10 Interchange Reconstruction & Reconnection Project

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Senate, we write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application to advance and construct a new and innovative Route 6/10 interchange in the City of Providence. The US Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (known as FASTLANE) presents a unique opportunity for states to obtain much-needed funding assistance for critical highway infrastructure projects. The current state-of-disrepair of the Route 6/10 interchange, which connects high-volume highway corridors from the south and west of Providence, makes this the utmost critical infrastructure repair project facing our State.

The Route 6/10 interchange project has been in design for approximately 30 years due to significant fiscal constraints. The project area consists of the interchange of US Route 6 and US Route 10, a major node in the regional highway and freight surface transportation network that presently serves over 100,000 vehicle trips per day. Within the project limits are seven bridges identified as structurally deficient that need to be addressed immediately to maintain public safety.

The need to rebuild the interchange has long been identified by the State but has never advanced beyond the temporary Band-Aid approach necessary to keep it operational. We can no longer afford to wait. We must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, while at the same time seeing its role in reconnecting neighborhoods through pedestrian, bicycle and transit enhancements that strengthen and encourage new neighborhood redevelopment possibilities.

We enthusiastically support RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application and look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction of the of most significant transportation infrastructure in our State today. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

M. Teresa Paiva Weed

M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate

Dominick J. Ruggerio

Dominick J. Ruggerio
Senate Majority Leader

Maryellen Goodwin

Maryellen Goodwin
Senate Whip

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR
FRANK LOMBARDO III
Deputy Majority Whip

68 Rollingwood Drive
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919
District 25

Room 314, State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Res: 401-270-1379
Bus: 401-276-5599
Fax: 401-528-1775

E-mail: sen-lombardo@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

Secretary,
Committee on Labor

Committee on Commerce

Committee on Rules

April 12, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director/RI DOT
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Re: RIDOT's FY 2016 FASTLANE Grant Application
Route 6/10 Interchange Reconstruction & Reconnection Project

Dear Director Alviti:

I am writing to you to express my support for RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application to advance and construct a new and innovative route 6/10 interchange in the City of Providence, specifically the hybrid design which incorporates green space above the interchange. The residents of my district are heavy users of this interchange as a throughway to Interstates 95, 195 and Route 10 South. The current road is overcrowded and usage. The structure, as your team has pointed out, is in deplorable condition. As I understand it, even the temporary braces are deteriorating.

The US Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (FASTLANE) is perfect fit for the design and upgrade of this failing system. Not only can the current road be rebuilt, but it can also accommodate much needed rapid transit to alleviate crowded roads and offer commuters more transportation options. In talking with my constituents, they would be very happy with the option of rapid direct bus into downtown Providence.

I appreciate DOT's open approach to inform and discuss this project with the public. This dialogue has created a much better design. I understand that there are still some people who wish to essentially eliminate the 6/10 interchange and replace it with surfaced city streets. This is not an option for my constituents and the other 90,000 plus commuters who use these roads every day. My colleagues who have asked to sign this letter agree with me.

I enthusiastically support RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application. I look forward to working with you and your Department on this vital project. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank Lombardo III
Senator District 25

Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

April 13, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
U.S. Transportation Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2016 Grant Application – Route 6/10 Interchange Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The City of Providence enthusiastically supports the State of Rhode Island's application for FAST LANE funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Route 6/10 Interchange Project. Approval of this grant would provide the city and state with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink this important infrastructure in a way that better connects Providence's neighborhoods, improves access, addresses safety, and enhances mobility for those who walk, bike, and take public transportation, all while creating long-term economic development opportunities in our city.

As was the case with many other highways built throughout the country during the mid 20th century, portions of Providence's urban neighborhoods, such as the Olneyville and Silver Lake neighborhoods, were demolished and isolated in order to make way for the 6/10 interchange and connector. For decades since its construction, these neighborhoods have suffered from air and noise pollution, physical and social isolation, and reduced property values.

There is great opportunity to align this project with the goals outlined by your office to rethink the way highway infrastructure is built in disadvantaged communities. By developing alternatives that take into consideration the concerns of those who live in the neighborhoods most impacted by this infrastructure, I know that this project will return substantial benefits to Providence, while also reducing long-term maintenance costs for this stretch of state infrastructure. Spanning some of the city's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, this project has the potential to dramatically improve mobility, quality of life, and access to amenities and recreational opportunities for residents while

City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903
Phone (401) 421-7740 Fax (401) 274-8240

also enhancing and re-connecting existing commercial areas of Providence such as Olneyville Square.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the State of Rhode Island, Providence stakeholders, and other local partners to implement a project that will serve residents, businesses, and commuters. This important project will increase the long-term sustainability and resiliency of our infrastructure, and, if planned right, provide an incredible opportunity to positively impact many of our neighborhoods.

If you have any questions, or if my office can provide additional information on this project, please feel free to reach out to Bonnie Nickerson, Director of Planning and Development at (401) 680-8534 or by e-mail at bnickerson@providenceri.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

SABINA MATOS
Council President Pro Tempore
Providence City Council
25 DORRANCE STREET, ROOM 310
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
EMAIL: ward15@providenceri.com
Office: (401) 521-7477
Cell: (401) 603-6756

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Finance Committee
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Chair- Special Committee on Women & Healthy Communities
Special Committee on State Legislative Affairs
Special Committee on Municipal Operations & Oversight

City of Providence, Rhode Island

April 14, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
U.S. Transportation Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2016 Grant Application – Route 6/10 Interchange Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the State of Rhode Island's application for FAST LANE funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Route 6/10 Interchange. The US Department of Transportation's funding would give the State of Rhode Island the opportunity to make a critical investment in this heavily-utilized highway, which connects our state's urban core with surrounding suburban and rural communities.

The Council district I represent includes the Olneyville and Silver Lake neighborhoods, which have been unduly burdened as a result of the poor design of the Route 6/10 interchange and connector, since its construction in the 1950s. The problems have heightened in the past 10 to 15 years as traffic volume has increased, and the roadways and bridges have fallen into serious disrepair. Improvements to this highway interchange will allow for more thoughtful configuration and integration with the densely populated urban neighborhoods it intersects, and for safer conditions for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

As the Rhode Island Department of Transportation has continued its community outreach on this project, public interest and engagement has been very high, making clear the imperative to rebuild the interchange. I look forward to working with RIDOT, the Providence Department of Planning and Development, and my neighbors to advance this project as a national model for highways that reconnect neighborhoods, address environmental justice issues, and make transportation safe, healthy, and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos

Sabina Matos
Council President Pro Tempore
Councilwoman-Ward 15

JOHN J. IGLIOZZI, ESQ.
COUNCIL/CONCEJAL - WARD 7
PROVIDENCE CITY HALL
25 DORRANCE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
Office: 521-7477

19 LEGION MEMORIAL DRIVE
PROVIDENCE, RI 02909
RES.: 401-943-2468

City of Providence, Rhode Island

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Finance
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Rules Committee

Special Committee on State Legislative Affairs

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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Retirement Board of the Employees' Retirement System

April 13, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E.
Director, RIDOT
2 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Director Alviti:

I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application to advance and construct a new and innovative Route 6/10 interchange in the City of Providence. The US Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (known as FASTLANE) presents a unique opportunity for states to obtain much-needed funding assistance for critical highway infrastructure projects. The current state-of-disrepair of the Route 6/10 interchange, which connects high-volume highway corridors from the south and west of Providence, makes this the utmost critical infrastructure repair project facing our State.

The Route 6/10 interchange project has been in design for approximately 30 years due to significant fiscal constraints. The project area consists of the interchange of US Route 6 and US Route 10, a major node in the regional highway and freight surface transportation network that presently serves over 100,000 vehicle trips per day. Within the project limits are seven bridges identified as structurally deficient that need to be addressed immediately to maintain public safety.

The need to rebuild the interchange has long been identified by the State but has never advanced beyond the temporary Band-Aid approach necessary to keep it operational. We can no longer afford to wait. We must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, while at the same time seeing its role in reconnecting neighborhoods through pedestrian, bicycle and transit enhancements that strengthen and encourage new neighborhood redevelopment possibilities.

I enthusiastically support RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application and look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction of the of most significant transportation infrastructure in our State today. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John J. Igliozzi
Councilman – Ward 7
JJI/pm

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APR 14 2016
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

APR 14 2016

JOSEPH M. POLISENA
MAYOR

TEL. (401) 553-8800
FAX (401) 331-4271

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

TOWN HALL
1385 HARTFORD AVENUE
JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02919

April 5, 2016

Peter Alviti, P.E., Director
RI Department of Transportation
1 Smith Hill
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application
Route 6/10 Interchange Reconstruction & Reconnection Project

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the Town of Johnston, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application to advance and construct a new and innovative Route 6/10 interchange in the City of Providence. The US Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (known as FASTLANE) presents a unique opportunity for states to obtain much-needed funding assistance for critical highway infrastructure projects. The current state-of-disrepair of the Route 6/10 interchange, which connects high-volume highway corridors from the south and west of Providence, makes this the utmost critical infrastructure repair project facing our State.

The Route 6/10 interchange project has been in design for approximately 30 years due to significant fiscal constraints. The project area consists of the interchange of US Route 6 and US Route 10, a major node in the regional highway and freight surface transportation network that presently serves over 100,000 vehicle trips per day. Within the project limits are seven bridges identified as structurally deficient that need to be addressed immediately to maintain public safety.

The need to rebuild the interchange has long been identified by the State but has never advanced beyond the temporary Band-Aid approach necessary to keep it operational. We can no longer afford to wait. We must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, while at the same time seeing its role in reconnecting neighborhoods through pedestrian, bicycle and transit enhancements that strengthen and encourage new neighborhood redevelopment possibilities.

The Town of Johnston enthusiastically supports RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application, and I look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction of the of most significant transportation infrastructure in our State today. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mayor Joseph M. Polisena

Joseph M. Polisena
Mayor

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

April 13, 2016

Director Peter Alviti
RI Department of Transportation
2 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

RE: RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application
Route 6/10 Interchange Reconstruction & Reconnection Project

Dear Director Alviti:

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority has a strong vested interest in the continued structural integrity of the Route 6/10 Interchange. The current state-of-disrepair of this roadway, which connects high-volume highway corridors from the south and west of Providence, makes this the utmost critical infrastructure repair project facing our State.

As service providers on the road network in this area, the structural integrity of bridges is critically important to us. Eight bus routes, as well as numerous vehicles travelling out of service to and from our Providence operating base, use bridges in this area hundreds of times per day. Bus routes crossing through this project area serve over 9,000 passenger trips in an average weekday. Ensuring this infrastructure remains safe and open is critical to operating public transportation within the City of Providence and beyond.

We appreciate RIDOT's efforts to seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, while at the same time seeing its role in reconnecting neighborhoods through pedestrian, bicycle and transit enhancements. We know this is a high-transit use area which may support a BRT system in the future. It is our understanding that while the FASTLANE project does not explicitly include dedicated right-of-way for transit facilities, it is being designed such that a transit right of way and station could be built here in the future. We are supportive of an approach that both meets the immediate goal of keeping our road infrastructure safe while also preparing for this future provision of dedicated right of way and stations for high frequency transit.

For these reasons, RIPTA supports RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application and we look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction. Maintaining this critical infrastructure is crucial to our agency, the state, and the region.

Sincerely,

Raymond Studley
CEO

705 ELMWOOD AVENUE, PROVIDENCE, RI 02907 • 401-784-9500
For Schedule information, call 1-401-781-9400
www.ripta.com

Cranston City Hall
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910
401-461-1000

Allan W. Fung
Mayor

April 13, 2016

Peter Alviti, Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Route 6-10 Connector

Dear Director Alviti:

I am writing to comment on behalf of the City of Cranston regarding reconstruction of the Route 6-10 Connector.

Each day, as many as forty five thousand (45,000) Cranston residents and businesses depend on the 6-10 Connector for highway access. Cranston traffic accounts for as much as forty five percent (45%) of the vehicle traffic on this main artery. The Route 6-10 Connector is an important component of Rhode Island's regional transportation highway network and is essential to future economic development goals for the City of Cranston.

Replacing this vital highway linkage with local city streets in the form of a boulevard would reduce the vehicle capacity of this highway interchange. I write in opposition to any such proposed design alternative that would disrupt the flow of traffic into and out of Cranston and divert through traffic congestion onto local roads. We will continue to monitor the discussion surrounding this project and welcome any additional information that you can provide.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Coupe
Director of Administration
City of Cranston

GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

Howard M. Kilguss
Chairman of the Board

Scott Wolf
Executive Director

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W. Edward Wood

April 13, 2016

Peter Alviti, Jr.
Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

RE: FASTLANE Grant Application for Reconstruction of the 6/10 Corridor

Director Alviti,

Grow Smart RI understands the urgent need to address the severe deficiencies that exist in the 6/10 corridor and we support RIDOT's FASTLANE grant application to the Federal Highway Administration.

Grow Smart Rhode Island is a coalition of business and civic leaders and concerned citizens that provides statewide policy leadership for those seeking sustainable and equitable economic growth. We convene broad coalitions that advocate for policy reforms and specific projects designed to build strong communities where all people and businesses can thrive. One of the principal ways we pursue this is by promoting responsible public investment in a 21st century transportation system that enhances our economy, safeguards the environment and provides Rhode Islanders with healthy and affordable transportation choices.

We understand that a thorough alternatives analysis will get underway in the coming months and provide many opportunities for the community to evaluate options and help to shape a final corridor design that best serves affected stakeholders in a fair and cost-effective way for this and future generations.

We look forward to working with you over the next several months to contribute our ideas for shaping a final design for this very important corridor that will affect the lives of Rhode Islanders for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Scott Wolf

Scott Wolf
Executive Director

235 Promenade Street, Ste.550 Providence, Rhode Island 02908 | t. 401-273-5711 f. 401-228-6594 | www.growsmartri.org

THE PROVIDENCE FOUNDATION
30 Exchange Terrace ▪ Providence, Rhode Island 02903 ▪ 401. 521. 3248 fax 401. 421. 4417
E-mail: dbaudouin@provfoundation.com

April 12, 2016

Peter Alviti
Director, RIDOT
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Alviti:

The Providence Foundation supports RIDOT's application for $150M in federal funds under the FASTLANE program for the rebuilding of Route10/Route 6 interchange. The project should receive the highest priority due to its age, poor condition and high volume of passengers and freight traffic. The current state of disrepair makes this project the most critical infrastructure repairs project facing our state.

The Foundation recommends that all alternative plans and solutions be reviewed and analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Towards that end, the Foundation believes that the NEPA "Statement of Need" should include not only providing for vehicular travel but also for reconnecting the various neighborhoods in the project area; providing expanded mass transit services both by buses and rail; providing pedestrian and bicycle enhancements and providing opportunities for new neighborhood redevelopment opportunities.

The Providence Foundation is a not-for-profit, private sector organization whose core purpose is "*to create an environment that is conducive to growth and sustained investment making Providence, particularly downtown, the premier mid-sized city in the country*". The Foundation is supported by over 140 leading corporations and institutions.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Baudouin
Executive Director

DAB/lp

Cc: Peter Garino
Lisa Vura Weis
Bernie Frezza

Rhode Island Association of Railroad Passengers
P. O. Box 8645
Warwick, RI 02888-0645

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APR 11 2016
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

April 7, 2016

Mr. Peter Alviti, Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903-1124

RE: Rhode Island application for USDOT "FASTLANE" funding for reconstruction of Routes 6 & 10, Providence, RI

Dear Mr. Alviti:

The Rhode Island Association of Railroad Passengers (RIARP) recognizes the urgent need for the reconstruction of deficient bridges in the subject area. We support your application for project funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's "FASTLANE" program.

While there is still much work to be done in developing the broad scope to this project, the intermodal aspects provide the potential for this to be much more than a simple highway bridge replacement project.

Focusing on the rail element of this project, we are concerned how the final design will address these issues:

- The project area directly parallels Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, severely constraining the rail Right of Way. We ask that the project's design allow space for an additional track to be built in the area should future rail traffic warrant. In future years more local passenger and freight rail traffic will likely be needed through this location. Also, the proposed "NEC Future" high speed rail proposal could bring more traffic through this rail right of way. The placement of new retaining walls and bridge abutments for this project should allow space for an added track in the future.

- Likely future local rail traffic includes a new in-state rail shuttle service, which RI DOT has proposed. This service would warrant construction of station platforms in the immediate area of the Route 6 & 10 project. The project design should identify possible future station platform locations and leave room for their construction.

- The Route 6 & 10 proposal includes provision for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) element. We ask that RIDOT be forward thinking and design this element such that it could later physically accommodate light rail. Should a light rail system be developed for Providence, this route could be a critical element. Also, a shared BRT / light rail segment might be a possibility through this immediate area.

Again, we support your application for "FASTLANE" funding and look forward to working with you as the planning and design advances for this project.

Sincerely,

Everett Stuart

Everett Stuart, Chair

DOT WATCH

A Citizen Advisory Group on Transportation Issues

Karen Salvatore
Founder & Consultant

Winston Stadig
Co-Founder

RECEIVED
APR 11 2016
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

To: Jorge Elorza, Providence Mayor
Peter Alviti, RIDOT Director
From: Bob Votava, Executive Director B.V.
Re: The Providence 6/10 intermodel Community Transportation Project
Date: April 5, 2016

Gentleman, our organization compliments your team to "Repair Urban Communities" with intermodel transportation improvements in the location known as the 6/10 project in Providence. The goal is to improve connectivity of neighborhoods, provide landscaping and open space, and reduce the prominence of the auto infrastructure of Routes 6 and 10 which dominates communities west of the interstate 95 in Providence.

In this early stage, there is little defined to assess the ultimate dimension and framework of this project. However, given how much this highway corridor has negatively impacted the surrounding neighborhoods, there is huge room for improvement. We are encouraged that the City of Providence with its experienced staff of planners working with their new consultant, including a transportation planner, will play the key role in the planning process and will include a broad range of public involvement for this extensive federal investment. In addition, the FHWA is available to provide clarity of grant details. Goals that we would support include reducing traffic speed, creating a boulevard with landscaping, and open space A road-separated bicycle artery which will connect existing links of the East Coast Greenway. This in conjunction with a dedicated alignment for public transportation.

We also thank Senator Sheldon Whitehouse for helping to draft this category of federal transportation funding known as FAST ACT. Mayor Elorza has illustrated his leadership to guide this project, which provides confidence to our citizens. This transportation investment will restore the ability of pedestrians to walk, ride their bikes and use public transportation, not only increase the efficiency of the auto. A goal strongly supported by Anthony Foxx, Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

Finally, all Rhode Islanders will also appreciate RIDOT's submission of the Tiger Grant application for Blackstone River Bike Path segments. Several of these are ready to be bid for construction and will increase a major section of the East Coast Greenway in Rhode Island. Tourism, one of our states major contributors to economic development, is a very important topic now in our state. Let bike paths help our Governor achieve one of her many goals.

Thank you for your leadership on these important transportation issues for Rhode Island.

CC: Gina Raimondo, Governor
Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator
Jack Reed, Senator
David Cicilline, Congressman
James Langevin, Congressman
Anthony Foxx, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Peter Garino, RIDOT Deputy Director
Ed Achorn, Providence Journal

DOT Watch, Inc.

Dot-Watch
481 Post Road
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EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

CITY OF WARWICK **RHODE ISLAND**

SCOTT AVEDISIAN
MAYOR

April 12, 2016

Peter Alviti, P E., Director
RI Department of Transportation
One Smith Hill
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application
Route 6/10 Interchange Reconstruction & Reconnection Project

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the City of Warwick, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2016 FASTLANE Grant Application to advance and construct a new and innovative Route 6/10 interchange in the City of Providence. The US Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (known as FASTLANE) presents a unique opportunity for states to obtain much-needed funding assistance for critical highway infrastructure projects The current state-of-disrepair of the Route 6/10 interchange, which connects high-volume highway corridors from the south and west of Providence, makes this the utmost critical infrastructure repair project facing our State.

The Route 6/10 interchange project has been in design for approximately 30 years due to significant fiscal constraints. The project area consists of the interchange of US Route 6 and US Route 10, a major node in the regional highway and freight surface transportation network that presently serves over 100,000 vehicle trips per day Within the project limits are seven bridges identified as structurally deficient that need to be addressed immediately to maintain public safety.

The need to rebuild the interchange has long been identified by the State but has never advanced beyond the temporary Band-Aid approach necessary to keep it operational. We can no longer afford to wait We must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, while at the same time seeing its role in reconnecting neighborhoods through pedestrian, bicycle and transit enhancements that strengthen and encourage new neighborhood redevelopment possibilities.

The City of Warwick enthusiastically support RIDOT's FASTLANE Grant Application and look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction of the of most significant transportation infrastructure in our State today. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Avedisian
Mayor

cc: Honorable Jorge Elorza
Brett Smiley
Raymond Studley, CEO, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

3275 Post Road • Warwick, RI 02886 • (401) 738-2000 • FAX (401) 738-6639

Michael D. Zarum
139 Northampton Street
Warwick, RI 02888

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter in Support of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) / Grant Application under USDOT solicitation for NSFHP / FASTLANE FY-2016 Grant Program Funds

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This letter is written in SUPPORT of a funding award to RIDOT as requested in their Grant Application under the USDOT Solicitation for FASTLANE fiscal year 2016 funding.

Our economy relies on safe and efficient multimodal links for freight and passenger transportation. Local Route Connectors, including the 6/10 Connector, ensure access to the national interstate highway system. RIDOT's proposal will ensure that transportation connectivity is maintained within the Route 6/10 Connector. Granting funds to RIDOT will contribute to meeting FASTLANE objectives and goals.

My support for a FASTLANE grant to RIDOT is based on more than twenty years of experience assessing projects and the fact that the RIDOT program meets the FASTLANE objectives.

In the late seventies, I was fortunate to have worked on the 6/10 Connector Program. That was over 35 years ago. The infrastructure built for that life cycle phase has outlived its useful life and needs rapid replacement. The current state of bridge structural deficiency and weight limitations within the 6/10 connector are a bottleneck to freight capacity. A grant award to RIDOT as they've proposed would allow RIDOT to remove the impediments, significantly increasing freight tonnage and value, which increases national freight efficiency and significantly contributes toward the long-term achievement of national efficiency goals.

The RIDOT proposal also meets grant program goals by including a transit component, creation of parkland, and would serve to reconnect neighborhoods. I find this concept has similarities to Boston's Southwest Corridor Program (SWCP), which I worked on as a consulting engineer in the eighties.

The SWCP originated as a proposed expressway program (Southwest Expressway) that was cancelled and replaced with mass transit and parkland. The SWCP has sections of track that are below surface level and are covered by sections of parkland, tennis and basketball courts, walking paths, bicycle paths and mixed use developments along the transit line's right of way.

The SWCP was honored with several awards including a Presidential Award of Design Excellence, the Boston Society of Architects Award for Urban Design Excellence, and the ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. The RIDOT grant proposal has potential to achieve the same level of honor and success as the SWCP. Competitively, RIDOT's proposal meets all of the grant program goals.

Thank you for your consideration to give RIDOT's application a high priority. A grant would be win-win.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Zarum, BSCEE, MBA