



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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January 5, 2016

The Honorable Nicholas A. Mattiello
Speaker of the House
82 Smith Street
Room 323
Providence, RI 02903

The Honorable Teresa Paiva Weed
Senate President
82 Smith Street
Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Speaker Mattiello and President Paiva Weed:

We greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment to addressing the road and bridge problems in Rhode Island. As you know, the situation requires action:

- Rhode Island is ranked last, 50th out of 50 states, in bridge quality;
- we are tied with one other state for most reliant on federal funds for roads and bridges; and
- 22% of our bridges are structurally deficient and, unless we do something about it, that percentage is projected to increase sharply in the years ahead.

We need to take action to modernize our bridges, both because it's a safety issue, and because quality roads and bridges are key to attracting businesses to invest and grow in Rhode Island.

We need to take action now, because the longer we wait, the more expensive it will become to fix the problem. Governor Raimondo proposed "RhodeWorks" as a way to put people back to work repairing our roads and bridges. One of the central features of the plan is increasing the resources available for bridge repair by assessing user fees on large commercial trucks:

- large commercial trucks are responsible for the vast majority of the vehicle-caused damage to roads and bridges; and
- large commercial trucks pay user fees in nearly every other state in the Northeast but get more of a free ride here.

We will not collect user fees from smaller trucks or passenger automobiles—in fact, the legislation that the Senate passed expressly prohibits that.

Both of you have asked for information on where gantries would be located. Enclosed herein, please find preliminary locations that we are considering. Let me emphasize three key points.

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First, these locations are only preliminary, and they remain subject to change based on the specifics of the final legislation. Once the General Assembly authorizes the collection of user fees, we will work with the Federal Highway Administration to reach agreement on final locations.

Second, in addition to the process with FHWA, the legislation passed by the Senate contains provisions for a full and open process where citizens will have an opportunity to make their voices heard before user fee amounts are finalized.

And third, Col. O'Donnell has assured me that the State Police will take action once the gantries are erected to prevent large commercial trucks from exiting the highways to avoid the user fees.

I greatly appreciate your commitment to rebuilding our roads and bridges, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to craft a final proposal that addresses the problems with our roads and bridges.

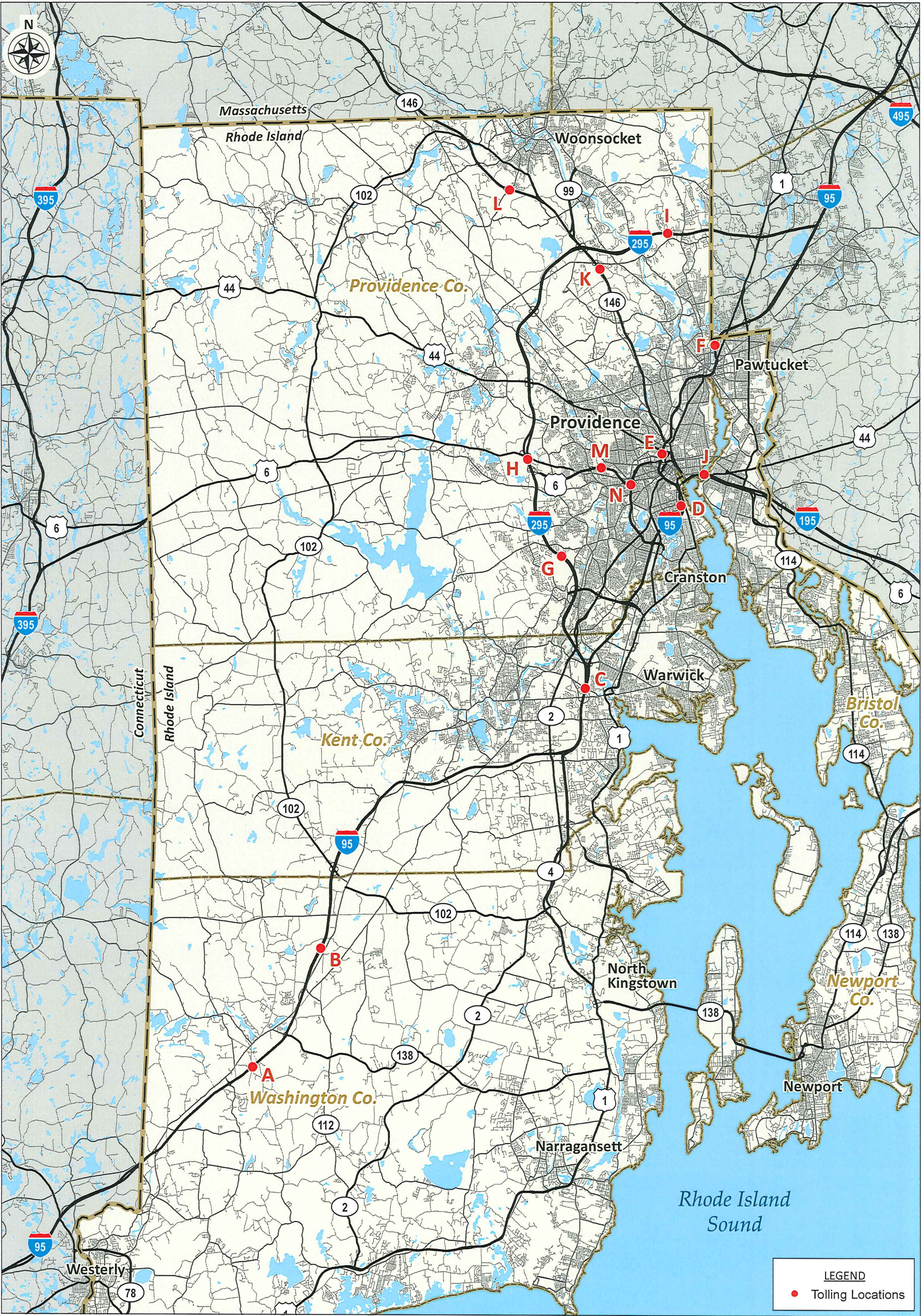
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Alviti, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E.
Director, RI Department of Transportation

Preliminary Toll Locations

Toll Location	Toll Location	City/Town
A	Interstate 95 over Mechanic Street	Hopkinton and Richmond line
B	Interstate 95 over Teft Hill Trail and Route 3	Exeter
C	Interstate 95 over Toll Gate Road (Route 115) and Centerville Road (Route 117)	Warwick
D	Interstate 95 over Oxford Street	Providence
E	Interstate 95 over US Route 6, Providence River and Amtrak	Providence
F	Interstate 95 over East Street and Roosevelt Avenue	Pawtucket
G	Interstate 295 over Water Supply Viaduct (1/2 mile north of Route 51) and Plainfield Pike (Route 14)	Cranston
H	Interstate 295 over Hartford Pike (US Route 6A), Abandoned Ramp Bridge, US Route 6 North, and Greenville Avenue	Johnston
I	Interstate 295 over Scott Road and Leigh Road	Cumberland
J	Interstate 195 over Seekonk River (NB and SB)	Providence and East Providence line
K	Route 146 over George Washington (Route 116)	Lincoln
L	Route 146 over Farnum Pike (Route 104)	North Smithfield
M	US Route 6 over Woonasquatucket River	Providence
N	US Route 6 and Route 10 interchange	Providence



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PRELIMINARY TOLL LOCATIONS