To stimulate growth that includes everyone, we need to focus on attracting businesses, building skills, and modernizing our infrastructure. Rebuilding our roads and bridges will accelerate our economic comeback both because it will put people to work now, and because it will make Rhode Island a more attractive place for businesses to invest.

The Problem

- Rhode Island has neglected the conditions of its roads and bridges for too long
- Rhode Island ranks last in the nation, 50th out of 50 states, in overall bridge condition -- about 22% of the 1,162 bridges in Rhode Island are structurally deficient
- The longer we wait to repair this infrastructure, the more expensive these projects become
- We do not have a reliable, sustainable funding source – we're tied with one other state (Montana) as the most reliant on federal dollars to fund our infrastructure
- Rhode Island lags other states along the I-95 corridor in how it finances road and bridge repairs – we're among the few states in the northeast that does not charge user fees to large commercial trucks
- Almost all vehicle-created road damage is from large commercial trucks

The Solution

- Accelerate the rebuilding of our crumbling roads and bridges by investing an additional $1 billion above current plans in transportation infrastructure. This includes:
    - a $500 million revenue bond that will be paid for by a user fee on large commercial trucks;
    - an application for $400 million in matching federal funds; and
    - $120 million in federal funds made available sooner by restructuring prior federal debt.
- Fix more than 150 structurally deficient bridges in Rhode Island, and make repairs to another 500 bridges to prevent them from becoming deficient
- Refocus efforts to expand transit
- Save nearly $1 billion over ten years by addressing the problem now instead of waiting. Even with the costs of bonding and interest, RhodeWorks will save taxpayers over $350M
- Keep people safe and make Rhode Island a more attractive place for businesses to invest

Why it Works

- RhodeWorks will add thousands of jobs and bring a much needed boost to Rhode Island's economy. According to an economic impact study conducted by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI):
    - RhodeWorks will increase the State's GDP by $538M;
    - RhodeWorks will increase personal income by $521M; and
    - RhodeWorks will create a net total of 6,487 jobs
- The boost of revenue will allow us to bring our bridges to 90% sufficiency in the ten years. In contrast, if we continue along the current path without additional resources, our bridges will continue to deteriorate, and by 2025, only about half of our bridges will be structurally sufficient
- The plan creates a sustainable, predictable funding source
- The Federal Government already permits the state to create user fees to repair bridges
- The majority of trucks affected will be from out of state, and the legislation expressly prohibits assessing a user fee on anyone besides commercial trucks
- By acting with urgency, we can keep people safe and save taxpayers millions of dollars. That's because it is four times more expensive to replace a bridge than to repair it and keep it maintained