

State of Rhode Island

REPRESENTATIVE
K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI
Speaker of the House

Room 323 State House
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

401-222-2447



House of Representatives

August 21, 2023

Mr. Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Application: "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, I write in full support of RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Program Application to advance "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park." The application seeks \$81 Million in MPDG program support against a total project cost of \$135 million. This project is a public-private partnership to construct several critical connections for freight movement in Southern New England.

This project will complete the final link in Rhode Island's "missing move" between I-95 and RI-4, and construct three ramps providing direct freeway access from Quonset Business Park (QBP) to RI-403. This project is focused on completing unfinished plans. Spanning three towns in central Rhode Island, the project has two components linked by a three-mile stretch of limited-access freeway and essential north-south connection for 63,000 daily vehicles.

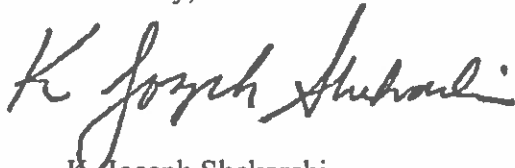
The first component will finalize "missing movements" between I-95 and Route 4, which would complete a direct freeway connection at one of the busiest junctions of the state and removing traffic from local roads. As it currently stands, vehicles on Route 4 North cannot reach I-95 South, and vehicles on I-95 North cannot reach Route 4 South without exiting the highway and traveling on urban arterial roadways that direct traffic towards large mixed-use commercial, retail, academic, and office developments. Vehicles completing this "missing movement" must negotiate at least three signalized intersections to reenter the freeway. This project will address this challenge by providing a direct connection between I-95 and Route 4, which will reduce interchange-related traffic congestion and improve both commuter and freight networks.

For the second component, RIDOT will complete construction of three ramps that were deferred in 2008 to contain costs. As the Quonset Business Park has continued to grow into one of the largest economic engines in the state, these missing ramps have become a significant challenge for the park and surrounding area. The QBP is split into two main areas: the business park and West Davisville district, without having access between the two areas, trucks and freight operators resort to using local roads which create noise, pollution, and safety concerns for nearby low-income housing, residential neighborhoods, and near the Quonset Bike Path. This project will address this issue by providing access to RI-403 from US-1 and West Davisville, reducing freight use on local roads and improving safety and air quality.

We must seize this opportunity to make a dynamic improvement to Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure, while improving the safety and accessibility to all transit users. As such, the House of Representatives enthusiastically supports RIDOT's MPDG application and we look forward to working with RIDOT in building a more efficient and equitable transportation system.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "K. Joseph Shekarchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

K. Joseph Shekarchi
Speaker



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
Division of Statewide Planning
235 Promenade Street - Suite 230
Providence, RI 02908



Mr. Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Application: "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP), which serves as staff to the State Planning Council, Rhode Island's sole MPO, I am writing to offer support for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) FY2023-2024 MPDG program application to advance "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park". The application seeks \$81 Million in MPDG program support against a total project cost of \$135 Million. This project is a public-private partnership to construct several critical connections for freight movement in Southern New England.

This project will complete the final link in Rhode Island's "missing move" between I-95 and RI-4, constructing three ramps to provide direct freeway access from Quonset Business Park (QBP) to RI-403. This project is focused on completing unfinished infrastructure elements. Spanning three communities in central Rhode Island, the project has two components linked by a three-mile stretch of limited-access freeway and essential north-south connection for 63,000 daily vehicles.

The first component will finalize "missing movements" between I-95 and Route 4, which would complete a direct freeway connection at one of the busiest junctions of the state and remove traffic from local roads. As it currently stands, vehicles on Route 4 North cannot reach I-95 South, and vehicles on I-95 North cannot reach Route 4 South without exiting the highway and traveling on urban arterial roadways that direct traffic towards large mixed-use commercial, retail, academic, and office developments. At this time, vehicles completing this "missing movement" must negotiate at least three signalized intersections to reenter the freeway. This project will address this challenge by providing a direct connection between I-95 and Route 4, which will reduce interchange-related traffic congestion and improve both commuter and freight networks.

For the second component, RIDOT will complete construction of three ramps that were deferred in 2008 to contain costs. As the Quonset Business Park has continued to grow into one of the largest economic engines in the state, these missing ramps have become a significant challenge for the park and surrounding area. The QBP is split into two main areas: the business park and the West Davisville district. Without having access between the two areas, trucks and freight operators resort to using local roads which creates noise, pollution, and safety concerns for nearby low-income housing, established residential neighborhoods, and near the Quonset Bike Path. This project will address this issue by providing access to RI-403 from US-1 and West Davisville, reducing freight use on local roads and improving safety and air quality.

For reference, RIDSP is responsible for preparing and maintaining plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state; and coordinating the actions of state, local and federal agencies and private individuals within the framework of the state's development goals and policies, as described in the State Guide Plan. This proposed project will further the goals, objectives, strategies, and actions included in several of our State Guide Plan elements, including the Rhode Island Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), our State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and our 2022 State Freight and Goods Movement

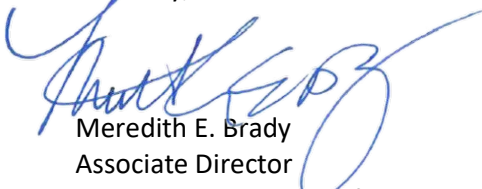
Plan (Freight Plan).

The RIDOT proposal reduces congestion, increases freight movement, and improves traffic safety, which is a priority of the STIP. In addition, it provides significant mobility benefits which aligns with the guiding principles of the LRTP and the STIP. The proposed project advances the Rhode Island Long-Range Transportation Plan under Goal 1, "Connect People and Places" by implementing projects that further the attainment of Objective 2: "Reduce Travel Congestion" and Objective 3: "Improve Regional Connectivity." All the project components mentioned in the proposal align well with goals and objectives included in the State Freight Plan for increasing the efficiency and expanding the capacity of the freight system. This proposed project is vitally important to the movement of freight throughout the New England region and stands to have a positive impact on Rhode Island's economic competitiveness. Further, the project supports operational efficiency, connectivity, and safety for the state's residents, businesses, and visitors.

It is vital for RIDOT to take advantage of this opportunity to make a dynamic improvement to Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure, while improving safety and accessibility for a variety of users. As such, RIDSP enthusiastically supports RIDOT's MPDG Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in building a more efficient and equitable transportation system.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Meredith E. Brady
Associate Director
Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning

CC: Pamela Cotter, RIDOT; Brandon Lehman, RIDOT; Mason Perrone, RIDSP

State of Rhode Island

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



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Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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Senate Chamber

August 21, 2023

Mr. Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Application: "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Senate, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Program Application to advance "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park". The application seeks \$81 Million in MPDG program support against a total project cost of \$135 Million. This project is a public-private partnership to construct several critical connections for freight movement in Southern New England.

This project will complete the final link in Rhode Island's "missing move" between I-95 and RI-4, and construct three ramps providing direct freeway access from Quonset Business Park (QBP) to RI-403. This project is focused on completing unfinished plans. Spanning three towns in central Rhode Island, the project has two components linked by a three-mile stretch of limited-access freeway and essential north-south connection for 63,000 daily vehicles.

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The State of Rhode Island -must seize this opportunity to make a dynamic improvement to Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure, while improving the safety and accessibility to all transit users. As such, the Rhode Island Senate enthusiastically supports RIDOT's MPDG Application and look forward to working with RIDOT in building a more efficient and equitable transportation system.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominick J. Ruggerio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate





August 17, 2023

Mr. Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Application: "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Quonset Development Corporation I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Program Application to advance "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park". The application seeks \$81 Million in MPDG program support against a total project cost of \$135 Million. This project is a public-private partnership to construct several critical connections for freight movement in Southern New England.

The Quonset Business Park is an economic engine for the State of Rhode Island and southern New England, home to over 200 businesses and 13,000 employees. The Park contains the State's only publicly-owned port, the Port of Davisville, which is one of the nation's largest points of import of new automobiles. A 2023 study shows that the Park directly and indirectly supports 24,681 jobs, which represents 5% of the total employment in Rhode Island, and produces \$5.9 billion in economic output and \$1.72 billion in household income annually. One out of every five manufacturing jobs in Rhode Island lies within the Park, and the average wage at the Park is 10% higher than the Rhode Island average.

This project represents a critical element in continuing to grow our economic infrastructure and support the Quonset Business Park. MPDG funding for this project will deliver economic opportunity and vitality for our State by allowing faster, more efficient commerce through this busy freight trucking link, and by supporting much-needed construction jobs.

The Quonset Development Corporation enthusiastically supports RIDOT's MPDG Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in building a more efficient and equitable transportation system.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Steven J. King

Managing Director, Quonset Development Corporation



August 17, 2023

Mr. Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: RIDOT's FY2023-2024 MPDG Application: "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), I write to you in support of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)'s MPDG Program Application to advance "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park." This is a project that the Rhode Island Department of Transportation has been trying to complete for several years.

This project will complete the final link in Rhode Island's "missing move" between I-95 and RI-4, and construct three ramps providing direct freeway access from Quonset Business Park (QBP) to RI-403. The completion of these combined efforts will reduce interchange-related traffic congestion, improve both commuter and freight networks to the state's largest economic engine, the Quonset Business Park, along with improving safety and air quality.

RIDOT's project, as it relates to RIPTA's statewide transit system, will help improve service efficiency and performance for those services that traverse the respective road segments.

RIPTA supports RIDOT's application and will work with them if this project is approved for financial support.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Avedisian", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott Avedisian
Chief Executive Officer