

May 17, 2022

Mr. Peter Alviti Jr., PE Director Rhode Island Department of Transportation Two Capitol Hill Providence, R.I. 02903

RE:

RIDOT's FY2022 MPDG Application

Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset

Business Park

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of GM2 Associates, Inc., I am writing to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity Program (MPDG) Application to advance the "Completing the I-95 Missing Move and Ramps to Quonset Business Park," which will direct freight traffic away from local roads by constructing the "Missing Move" ramps linking Interstate 95 to and from Route 4 in East Greenwich, and installing the deferred Route 403 ramps at Post Road and at the West Davisville district of the Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown. With a total project cost of \$135 million, RIDOT is requesting \$81 million in its application.

For decades, Rhode Island travelers have been unable to complete the links between Route 4 and Interstate 95 without navigating a series of signals and local roads. This project would finally complete the link between these two highways and provide smoother connections to one of the state's largest employers by building the deferred Route 403 ramps to the West Davisville district of Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown.

As you know, we at GM2 acquired and merged forces with Gordon R. Archibald, Inc. (GRA) of Pawtucket, RI, on August 1, 2021. For literally decades, GRA has been one of RIDOT's leading consultants. Now doing business as GRA, a division of GM2, GRA was the engineer of record for RIDOT for the entire Relocated Route 403 freeway project in North Kingstown and East Greenwich. As such, the senior staff of GRA who participated in that project are acutely aware of the need for both the I-95/Route 4 and the Route 403 components of RIDOT's application. In both cases, the missing/deferred ramps are critical to providing complete access to and from the Quonset Business Park and West Davisville, most importantly for the industrial traffic utilizing the current routes. In addition to the efficiency that would result for Quonset traffic, safety for the motoring public throughout the project area will be enhanced by virtue of keeping industrial traffic on the I-95, Route 4 and Route 403 freeways and off the local roads.

This is an important freight route that serves as a critical element of our economic infrastructure. 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.

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200 MAIN ST PAWTUCKET RI 02860 401.726.4084 Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, GM2 enthusiastically supports RIDOT's MPDG Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in any way we can to add these critical highway components to the project area.

Sincerely,

GM2 Associates, Ing.

Todd A. Ravenelle, P.E. Senior Vice President RI Division Manager

