Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 17, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in support of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation's (RIDOT) application under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. Funding would allow RIDOT to implement a complete streets design and facilitate equitable multimodal transit along the Henderson Bridge.

The Henderson Bridge and Expressway spans the Seekonk River and connecting the cities of Providence and East Providence, Rhode Island. RIDOT is right-sizing this infrastructure to function as a local roadway that will link communities while supporting equitable, multimodal transit between the two cities.

Funds would allow RIDOT to begin construction that would transform the freeway into a complete street with a lower design speed and a separate, shared-use path for non-motorized transit. Separated bike and pedestrian infrastructure would enhance connectivity to the East Bay Bike Path and the Blackstone River Bikeway, which serve thousands each year.

Additionally, RIDOT would decommission and demolish an aging and poorly conditioned ramp and install additional safety features to support multimodal users. Together, these improvements will connect neighborhoods while providing greater opportunity for economic development in surrounding areas.

We strongly support RIDOT's proposal and respectfully request your thorough consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations of your agency. If we can be of further assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
OF RHODE ISLAND

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

February 22, 2024

RE: RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application: "Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair,"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Rhode Island ("ACEC-RI"), I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the *Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair*, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope of this project includes converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed, dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use and a roadway design to support future transit corridor implementations by other key stakeholders. The Project will include decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, loop ramp, and two traffic signals, and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout, supporting broad automobile connectivity and the Henderson Parkway complete streets design approach. Improvement and investment will also be made at the bicycle and pedestrian level, with investment in non-motorized vehicle facilities to improve bicycle connection on the Henderson Bridge, and connectivity to the East Bay Bike Path and Blackstone River Bikeway. These dedicated, separated shared use paths can also be utilized by pedestrians. The project scope also includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge overlooking the Seekonk River and Providence Harbor.

Right sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been planned for several years as funding was programmed. A number of planning documents explored visions for the Henderson Bridge and Expressway that shifted away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. Among the improvements laid out in the application are multimodal upgrades that advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan, safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges in these thriving and dense neighborhoods.

Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, ACEC-RI enthusiastically supports RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application and look forward to working with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of the most vital east-west link in our transportation infrastructure in our state today.

55 Cottrell Road Saunderstown, RI 02874
(401) 663-4838

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
OF RHODE ISLAND

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

Sincerely,

Dorothy S. Davison

Dorothy S. Davison
Executive Director, ACEC-RI

55 Cottrell Road Saunderstown, RI 02874
(401) 663-4838

CIRI

Construction Industries of Rhode Island

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

RE: RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application:
"Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair,"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Construction Industries of Rhode Island (CIRI), I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the *Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair*, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues with a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope of this project includes converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed, dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use and a roadway design to support future transit emphasis corridor implementations by other key stakeholders. Decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, loop ramp, and two traffic signals, and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout, supporting broad automobile connectivity and the Henderson Parkway complete streets design approach. Improvement and investment will also be made at the bicycle and pedestrian level, with investment in non-motorized vehicle facilities to improve bicycle connection on the Henderson Bridge, and connectivity to the East Bay Bike Path and Blackstone River Bikeway. Those dedicated, separated shared use paths can also be utilized by pedestrians, the project scope also includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge overlooking the Seekonk River and Providence Harbor.

Right-sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been planned for several years as funding was programmed. A number of planning documents explored visions for the Henderson Bridge and Expressway that shifted away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. Among the improvements laid out in the application are multimodal upgrades that advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan, safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges in these thriving and dense neighborhoods.

Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, CIRI enthusiastically supports RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application and look forward to working

with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of the most vital east-west link in our transportation infrastructure in our state today.

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

Sincerely,

Ernest Carlucci
Executive Director

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 FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application:**
Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair

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, RIDSP offers its support for the application of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) for a FY2024 RAISE grant to advance the Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues with a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope of this project includes converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed, dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use, and a roadway design to support future transit emphasis corridor implementations by other key stakeholders. Decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, loop ramp, and two traffic signals, and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout, supporting broad automobile connectivity and the Henderson Parkway complete streets design approach. Improvement and investment will also be made at the bicycle and pedestrian level, with investment in non-motorized vehicle facilities to improve bicycle connection on the Henderson Bridge, and connectivity to the East Bay Bike Path and Blackstone River Bikeway. Those dedicated, separated shared use paths can also be utilized by pedestrians, and the project scope also includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge overlooking the Seekonk River and Providence Harbor.

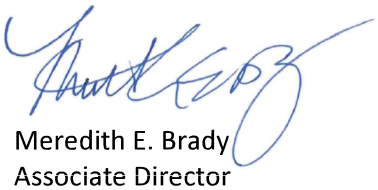
Right-sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been considered for several years as funding was programmed. Planning documents explored visions for the Henderson Bridge and Expressway that shifted away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. Among the improvements laid out in the application are multimodal upgrades that advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan, safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges in these thriving and dense neighborhoods.

The outlook of RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application is consistent with the planning goals and objectives outlined in Rhode Island's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), specifically connecting people to places, strengthening communities, and supporting economic growth in the Ocean State. It also aligns

with the vision to create a multimodal transportation network to help support healthy communities. The components of this construction grant also factor into complete streets planning, which has been prioritized both by FHWA and internally with RIDSP's current development of a Statewide Complete Streets Plan that begun this year. Therefore, RIDSP stands in support of the initiatives contained within this application. It is of utmost importance that we take advantage of the opportunity to both rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure and rethink the ways in which our bridges are being designed moving forward with a focus on resilience and sustainability. We look forward to working with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of one of the most vital east-west transportation links in our infrastructure today.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about our support for this application.

Warm Regards,



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

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

City of East Providence
Office of the Mayor
Roberto L. DaSilva

February 20, 2024

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

RE: RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application: "Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Mayor of the City of East Providence, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues with a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope of this project includes converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed, dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use and a roadway design to support future transit emphasis corridor implementations by other key stakeholders. Decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, loop ramp, and two traffic signals, and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout, supporting broad automobile connectivity and the Henderson Parkway complete streets design approach. Improvement and investment will also be made at the bicycle and pedestrian level, with investment in non-motorized vehicle facilities to improve bicycle connection on the Henderson Bridge, and connectivity to the East Bay Bike Path and Blackstone River Bikeway. Those dedicated, separated shared use paths can also be utilized by pedestrians, the project scope also includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge overlooking the Seekonk River and Providence Harbor.

Right sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been planned for several years as funding was programmed. Several planning documents explored visions for the Henderson Bridge and Expressway that shifted away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. Among

145 Taunton Ave. East Providence, RI 02914 Tel: (401) 435-7521/Fax: (401) 632-4579 TDD: (401-431-1633)

the improvements laid out in the application are multimodal upgrades that advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan, safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges, especially here in East Providence.

Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, the City of East Providence enthusiastically support RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of one of the most vital east-west links in our transportation infrastructure in our state today.

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

Sincerely,

Roberto L. DaSilva

Mayor

145 Taunton Ave. East Providence, RI 02914 Tel: (401) 435-7521 /Fax: (401) 438-1719 TDD: (401) 431-1633

Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Providence, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the *Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair*, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues with a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale including: converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed, dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use that connects to the East Bay and Blackston River bike paths; a roadway design to support future transit emphasis corridor implementations by other key stakeholders; decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, loop ramp, and two traffic signals; and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout, supporting broad community connectivity and the Henderson Parkway complete streets design approach. The project scope also includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge overlooking the Seekonk River and Providence Harbor.

Right-sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been planned for several years as funding was programmed. A number of planning documents explored visions for the Henderson Bridge and Expressway that shifted away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. Among the improvements laid out in the application are multimodal upgrades that advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan, safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges in these thriving and dense neighborhoods.

Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, the City of Providence enthusiastically supports RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of the most vital east-west link in our transportation infrastructure in our state today.

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

Sincerely,

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor of Providence

City Hall, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903
Phone (401) 421-2489 Fax (401) 274-8240

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

February 26, 2024

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

RE: RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application:
"Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair,"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the *Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair*, construction application. The application seeks $25 million in RAISE grant support.

The Henderson Bridge carries approximately 20,000 vehicles per day and is a vital thoroughfare that connects the cities of Providence and East Providence, Rhode Island.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues with a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope of this project includes converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed; a dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use; and a roadway design to support future transit emphasis corridor implementations by other key stakeholders. This phase of work involves decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, a loop ramp, and two traffic signals, and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout, supporting broad automobile connectivity and the Henderson Parkway complete streets design approach. Improvement and investment will also be made at the bicycle and pedestrian level, with investment in non-motorized vehicle facilities to improve bicycle connection on the Henderson Bridge and connectivity to the East Bay Bike Path and Blackstone River Bikeway. Those dedicated, separated shared use paths can also be utilized by pedestrians. The project scope also includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge overlooking the Seekonk River and Providence Harbor.

Right-sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been planned for several years as funding was programmed. A number of planning documents explored visions for the Henderson Bridge and Expressway that shifted away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. Among the improvements laid out in the application are multimodal upgrades that advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan, safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges in these thriving and dense neighborhoods.

Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, the Rhode Island House of Representatives enthusiastically supports RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of the most vital east-west link in our transportation infrastructure in our state today.

Thank you for your consideration of this RAISE request within all applicable rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (401) 222-2466 or via email at rep-shekarchi@rilegislature.gov.

Sincerely,

K. Joseph Shekarchi
Speaker of the House

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE

February 20, 2024

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

RE: RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application:
"Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (RICC) in support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the *Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair*, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

Phase 2 of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway continues with a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope of this project includes converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with a lower design speed, dedicated, separated shared use path for non-motorized use, and a roadway design to support future transit emphasis corridor implementations by other key stakeholders. This entails decommissioning and demolishing a bridge in poor condition, building a loop ramp and two traffic signals, and replacing those components with an at-grade roundabout. Improvement and investment will also be made at the bicycle and pedestrian level. Those dedicated, separated shared use paths can also be utilized by pedestrians, especially as the project scope includes the installation of two scenic overlooks on the Henderson Bridge.

Updating the Henderson Bridge and Expressway had been planned for several years but this grant would support the shift in planning away from the original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway providing a vital connection to neighboring cities and communities. The project will advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan—both of which align to RICC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy--as well as provide safety work that mitigates accessibility and mobility challenges in these thriving and dense neighborhoods.

It is imperative for Rhode Island to rebuild our critical transportation infrastructure, and further connections between neighborhoods in Providence and East Providence. As such, RICC supports RIDOT's RAISE Construction Grant Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in advancing the reconstruction and modernization of the most vital east-west link in our transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Tanner

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq.
Secretary of Commerce
State of Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

February 19, 2024

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

RE: RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Construction Grant Application: "Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), I write to you in support of RIDOT's FY2024 RAISE Grant Application to advance the *Henderson Phase 2 Multimodal Connections: Moving Beyond a State of Good Repair*, construction application. The application seeks $25 Million in RAISE grant support.

The second phase of the Henderson Bridge and Expressway project involves a wide range of improvements that will transform non-motorized connectivity on a regional scale. The scope comprises of converting the existing freeway-style Henderson corridor into a complete street with lower design speed, a separated shared use path for non-motorized use (i.e. cycling and walking), and a roadway design to support a future transit emphasis corridor implementation that would see a frequent bus service running across Providence and East Providence.

Right sizing the Henderson Bridge and Expressway have been planned for several years. There have been many planning documents over the years that have explored how to shift these rights-of-way away from their original freeway purpose and toward a community roadway. RIDOT's proposed improvements advance the goals of the state Bicycle Mobility Plan and Transit Master Plan and presents an opportunity to engage with the City on how plan for increased density and greater mixed-use development in proximity to the transit corridor over the long term.

We encourage USDOT to consider RIDOT's funding request. RIPTA stands ready to assist RIDOT if they are successful. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Avedisian
Chief Executive Officer