



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

May 6, 2024

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

RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application: “Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge”

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am reaching out to express my unwavering endorsement and to underscore the importance of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation’s (RIDOT) FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance “Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge” project application. The application is requesting \$220.9 million in grant support from the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) program. This grant would contribute towards the total project cost of \$368.3 million.

On December 11th, my administration took emergency measures to close Washington Bridge No. 700 (Westbound) upon receiving notification of critical failures in certain bridge components. This closure, coupled with ensuing traffic challenges, has profoundly impacted the neighboring communities spanning from East Providence to Providence. In response to the closure, my administration has made significant strides to alleviate the situation, including the expansion of traffic capacity, heightened enforcement efforts, and the proposal of a budget amendment to alleviate the financial burdens on local small businesses in the area. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

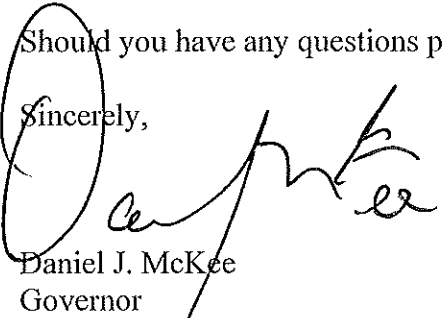
Looking ahead, expediting the construction of a new bridge to replace the current westbound structure stands as my utmost priority. The demolition, design, and construction phases of this project require substantial investment from our federal partners. The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application is a critical component of the comprehensive financial package aimed at the construction of a new bridge. As you noted during your visit to Rhode Island to tour the bridge, this project “can’t get done without a lot of federal funding.”

Sec. Buttigieg
May 6, 2024
Page 2

Constructing this new bridge will address immediate concerns, as the closure affects over 90,000 vehicles daily. It will also foster employment opportunities and put Rhode Islanders to work. Ultimately, this proposal will result in the construction of a brand-new bridge that stands as a testament to our commitment to quality infrastructure, ensuring the safety and convenience of generations to come.

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

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

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

May 3, 2024

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance its "*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*" project application. The application seeks \$220.9 million in Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which is a vital thoroughfare that carries more than 90,000 vehicles each day, were shut down in an emergency closure due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, Rhode Island. The impact on our local schools, infrastructure and residents has been extremely negative; the impact on local businesses has been devastating.

RIDOT has worked with the Rhode Island's Governor's Office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, as well as the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade, RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical assets back in operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such, the Rhode Island House of Representatives enthusiastically supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application and look forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

Thank you for your consideration of this request within all applicable rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (401) 222-2447 or via email at rep-shekarchi@rilegislature.gov.

Sincerely,


K. Joseph Shekarchi
S P E A K E R

State of Rhode Island

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write this letter in support of Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance "*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*" project application.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, that backed up to the Massachusetts state line, and overwhelmed the alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical asset back in operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. I wholeheartedly support RIDOT's application and commitment to fixing this critical asset. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominick J. Ruggerio". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dominick J. Ruggerio
Senate President



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

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



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

RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP), which serves as staff to the State Planning Council, Rhode Island's sole MPO, offers its support for RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance the "Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge" project. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, were shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, Rhode Island.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region served by the Washington Bridge. The reconstruction of this bridge is a vital factor, not only in moving people and goods throughout the state, but in providing crucial service to Rhode Island's small businesses – the same business community that helps to make Rhode Island a vibrant and diverse place to live and work.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing transportation infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

RIDSP stands in support of this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical assets back into operation and to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. Furthermore, RIDSP looks forward to working with RIDOT to keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving by way of this Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,



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

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



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of Providence, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance "*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*" project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical asset back in operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such, the City of Providence enthusiastically supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application and look forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

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

Sincerely,

Brett P. Smiley
Mayor, City of Providence



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

May 1, 2024

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
“Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge”**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the City of East Providence, I write to you in full support of RIDOT’s FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance “*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*” project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island’s Governor’s office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of the region's most critical assets back into operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such, City of East Providence enthusiastically supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

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

Sincerely,



Roberto L. DaSilva

Mayor



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

110 Royal Little Drive
Providence, RI 02904-1860
Tel: 401-868-2000
Fax: 401-868-2012

May 3, 2024

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation,

I am writing on behalf of AAA Northeast to express our strong support for RIDOT's Mega Grant Program application. The closure of the Washington Bridge on December 11, 2023, has significantly impacted Rhode Islanders across the state as they work to navigate their daily lives and support their families during this time of uncertainty and inconvenience.

AAA Northeast serves close to 530,000 members in Rhode Island. From our beginning, we have been tireless advocates for traffic safety and have put our members' well-being at the center of everything we do. In keeping with our mission, we are deeply committed to uplifting all efforts to support the safe, efficient, effective demolition, construction, and reconstruction of the Washington Bridge for our members and the entire state of Rhode Island.

It is no secret that the temporary fixes to the Washington Bridge closure, though absolutely necessary, have resulted in notable increases in accidents on the bridge's westbound side. We owe it to the Rhode Island community to invest in long term solutions that will significantly decrease the number of accidents, restoring a sense of safety and security for all travelers.

The Washington Bridge is a crucial piece of infrastructure for Rhode Island and the surrounding region. It serves as a key connector for cities and towns across the state to reach the capital city center and it connects Cape Cod and the South Coast with the rest of the Eastern Seaboard. The critical failure and unexpected immediate closure of the Washington Bridge is an example of why AAA Northeast is incredibly grateful that funding support like the Mega Grant Program exists and why Rhode Island is well positioned to receive support like this from the federal government.

At AAA Northeast, we know that it is more important than ever to come together to invest in safety, which is why I fully support RIDOT's application. The Mega Grant Program has the potential to be the difference maker in ensuring that Rhode Island can take all the steps necessary to get one of the most important pieces of infrastructure up and running with safety in mind at every step.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and for your commitment to support complex and critical projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Galvin'.

John Galvin
President and CEO
AAA Northeast

**G R E A T E R
P R O V I D E N C E
C H A M B E R O F
C O M M E R C E**

30 Exchange Terrace, Providence, RI 02903

401.521.5000 fax 401.621.6109

providencechamber.com

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Rhode Island's largest business advocacy organization, I am writing to express our strong support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance "*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*". The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day and is a key gateway between Rhode Island and Massachusetts, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

As a result of the bridge closure, all types of businesses were negatively impacted from experiencing a reduction in revenues anywhere from 20-50% due to reservation cancellations at local restaurants, delays in material deliveries in the manufacturing sector, workers snarled in traffic delays trying to get to work and events being cancelled causing economic losses. Hundreds of businesses have applied to the SBA low interest loan program as a result of the bridge closure. The negative impacts on the business community from the bridge closure have been compared to the impacts suffered by the business community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for the safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, which is estimated to be sometime in 2026, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, which the Providence Chamber was a strong advocate for its implementation, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing our state's infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and

resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical assets back in operation to strongly maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such, The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce strongly supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application, and we look forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

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

Sincerely,



Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce



Lifespan *Delivering health with care®*



May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing on behalf of Care New England and Lifespan, the two largest health systems in Rhode Island, to express our unwavering support for the application submitted by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation under the Mega Grant Program.

The closure of the Washington Bridge on December 11, 2023, has significantly impacted healthcare providers who, despite the challenges, have shown remarkable dedication to continue providing the necessary and, at times, life-saving care to our patients across the state.

Together, our systems employ 24,000 people and serve well over 700,000 patients each year. We understand that reliable transportation infrastructure is part of the foundation of any region's high quality health system. That's especially true in a state like Rhode Island.

We support the McKee Administration's efforts to keep Rhode Islanders safe and believe that the Governor and RIDOT made the right decision to act quickly last December when it closed the west-bound side of the Washington Bridge. Their quick action undoubtedly saved lives. However, we also recognize that the closure has created uncertainty and inconvenience for our workforce and our patients and - in some cases - challenges to deliver timely and quality health care.

The Mega Grant Program can be the difference maker for health care providers and our patients. Thank you for your consideration of this application and for your commitment to support complex and critical projects.

Sincerely,

Michael Wagner, MD, President and CEO, Care New England

John Fernandez, President and CEO, Lifespan



LIUNA!

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE
226 South Main Street • Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (401) 751-8010 • Fax: (401) 861-3340

BRENT BOOKER
General President

MICHAEL F. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents:

TERRENCE M. HEALY
Special Assistant to the
General President

JOSEPH S. MANCINELLI
Canadian Director

DENNIS L. MARTIRE

ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

OSCAR DE LA TORRE

SERGIO RASCON

ROBERT F. ABBOTT

SAMUEL STATEN, JR.

MICHAEL E. HELLSTROM

DAVID A. FRYE

ERNESTO J. ORDONEZ

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.

STEPHEN E. FARNER

PAUL V. HOGROGIAN

HEADQUARTERS:
905 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC
20006-1765
202-737-8320
Fax: 202-737-2754
www.liuna.org

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

May 2, 2024

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The New England Region of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) is proud to represent over 10,000 skilled members in Rhode Island, many who build the critical public infrastructure our economy relies on every day. On behalf of our members, I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance "Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge" project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. RIDOT has worked with the Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain. The \$220.9M of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves. Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of the region's most critical assets back into operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. We appreciate your work that made this once-in-a-generation federal infrastructure funding possible and your tireless efforts now in funding implementation. We stand ready, together with our contractor partners, to go to work on projects like the I-195 Washington Bridge Replacement project, made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. This project will create hundreds of family-supporting union construction jobs, opportunities for apprenticeship pathways for underserved populations, and deliver economic benefits to the local economy. Thank you in advance for your consideration and for your attention to so many issues that affect our members.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.
Vice President and
New England Regional Manager

DAB/al

Feel the Power





May 1, 2024

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

RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application: “Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge”

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Quonset Development Corporation, I write to you in full support of RIDOT’s FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance “Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge” project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

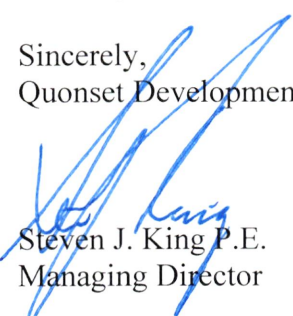
The Quonset Business Park is an economic engine for the State of Rhode Island and southern New England, home to over 200 businesses and 14,000 employees. The Park contains the State’s only publicly-owned port, the Port of Davisville, which is one of the nation’s largest importer of new automobiles. A 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 will bring one of the region’s most critical assets back into operation to maintain the safe movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily, including freight, which is critical to the operations of the Quonset Business Park. MPDG funding for this project will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety, and promote economic development throughout the region.

The Quonset Development Corporation enthusiastically supports RIDOT’s MPDG Application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in building a more efficient transportation system for the benefit of Rhode Island and beyond.

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

Sincerely,
Quonset Development Corporation



Steven J. King P.E.
Managing Director



Construction Industries of Rhode Island

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The Construction Industries of Rhode Island (CIRI), I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance "*Full Replacement of the I195 Washington Bridge*" project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical asset back in operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such, CIRI enthusiastically supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application and look forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

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

Sincerely,

Ernest J. Carlucci
Executive Director
Construction Industries of Rhode Island



May 3, 2024

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Application to advance "*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*" project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in MPDG support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

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We must seize this opportunity to bring one of the region's most critical assets back in operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such RIPTA supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application and looks forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Durand", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Christopher Durand
Interim Chief Executive Officer



Waterson Terminal Services

PROVIDENCE · DAVISVILLE · NEW BEDFORD

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

**RE: FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application:
"Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge"**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Waterson Terminal Services, LLC ("WTS"), I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Application to advance "*Full Replacement of the I-195 Washington Bridge*" project application. The application seeks \$220.9 Million in Congestion Relief Program Grant support against a total project cost of \$368 Million.

On December 11, 2023, the westbound travel lanes of the Washington Bridge, which carries 90,000 vehicles a day, was shut down in an emergency closure, due to a critical failure of bridge components. In the subsequent days that followed, commuters sat for hours in traffic, backing up neighborhood road networks, and overwhelming the one alternative route across the Henderson Bridge between East Providence and Providence, RI.

RIDOT has worked with Rhode Island's Governor's office to mitigate traffic, provide alternative modes of travel, and ease concerns of the people who travel I-195, and the businesses that rely on the interstate for safe transport of people and goods. However, until the bridge is rebuilt, congestion challenges, safety concerns, and economic impacts will remain.

The \$220.9 million of funding requested in this application will return the asset and corridor to structural sufficiency, improve traffic flows and safety through eliminating queuing and bottlenecks, and promote economic development in the two cities and region it serves.

Since the 2016 RhodeWorks program was enacted into law, RIDOT has made unprecedented and accelerated progress repairing state infrastructure. In less than a decade RIDOT has utilized time and resources to efficiently create schedules that ensure federal and state funds are put to the most efficient use to protect the safety of Rhode Island's traveling public.

We must seize this opportunity to bring one of region's most critical asset back in operation to maintain the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of over 90,000 vehicles daily. As such, WTS enthusiastically supports RIDOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant application and look forward to working with RIDOT in keeping Rhode Island's people and economy moving.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CW', is positioned above the typed name of Christopher Waterson.

Christopher Waterson
President and CEO
Waterson Terminal Services, LLC