

October 30, 2017

Mr. Peter Alviti
Director
R.I. Department of Transportation
One Capitol Hill
Providence, R. I. 02903

RE: RIDOT's FY2018 INFRA Grant Application- Providence Viaduct Northbound Project

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the Foundry Corporate Office Center and The Promenade Apartments in Providence, RI, I am writing in support of RIDOT's FY2018 INFRA Grant Application to advance and construct a new and important bridge highway improvement at the crucial I-95 Providence Viaduct Northbound.

I-95 is the key component to the economic activity in Providence, not only as Rhode Island's capital city but an important link in the New York City to Boston component of the Northeast Megaregion.

A properly functioning highway system is a key component to the future of the entire area. In addition, we believe that this potential \$264 million project – with the help of the \$60 million INFRA funding – will help to create economic opportunity both in allowing faster, more efficient commerce through Rhode Island's busiest commercial corridor, and directly by adding much-needed construction jobs.

Communities in our region have long sought the kinds of improvements outlined in this INFRA Grant Application for the safety and well-being of our traveling public.

More than 3,000 live and work on a daily basis here at our project, which abuts the viaduct. The most common complaint from them has been the dire conditions that exist under the viaduct for both pedestrians and vehicles on Promenade Street.

In the past, repeated attempts to fix crumbling bridges and stop queuing of cars in this well-traveled commercial area have been stymied by lack of proper infrastructure funding.

Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, The Foundry Corporate Office Center and The Promenade Apartments enthusiastically support RIDOT's INFRA Grant Application and look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction 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,

Anthony J. Thomas, Jr.
Partner and Principal