



Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

October 31, 2017

Peter Alviti
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
2 Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the City of Providence, I write to you in full support of Rhode Island Department of Transportation's (RIDOT) 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. 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. I believe this extra funding will allow RIDOT to include frontage roads along I-95 northbound as part of the project. The funding will allow the project to include improvements to alleviate significant traffic congestion problems, specifically along the northbound section of Interstate 95. This ultimately will improve access to and from our capital City.

As Mayor of the City of Providence, I enthusiastically support RIDOT's INFRA Grant Application and look forward to working with your Department in advancing the reconstruction of the most vital link in our transportation infrastructure in our state today. I believe we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure. Finally, on behalf of the residents of the City of Providence, thank you for submitting this application. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Jorge O. Elorza
City of Providence