



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration
DIVISION OF PLANNING
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5870

Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E.
Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

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

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Division of Planning I writing to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2018 TIGER Grant Application to advance and construct a new and important highway bridge improvement at the crucial I-95 Providence Viaduct Northbound.

I-95 is the key component to the economic activity in the City of Providence, not only as Rhode Island's capital city but in Rhode Island as a whole. It is an important link in the New York City to Boston component of the Northeast Megaregion. It is also an important capital project in our current Long-Range Transportation Plan and State Transportation Improvement Program.

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. Because we must seize this window of opportunity to rebuild this critical transportation infrastructure, the Division of Planning enthusiastically supports 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. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Parag Agrawal, AICP

Associate Director