


ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
RHODE ISLAND

November 1, 2017

Mr. Peter Alviti, Director
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
2 Capitol Hill
Providence, R.I. 02903

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

Dear Director Alviti:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Rhode Island (ACEC-RI), I write to you in full support of RIDOT's FY2018 TIGER Grant Application to advance and construct a new and important bridge highway improvement at the crucial I-95 Providence Viaduct Northbound.

I-95 is a critical driver of the Rhode Island economy supporting commerce and economic activity throughout the Greater Providence area and provides a crucial link in the New York to Boston component of the Northeast Megaregion.

We are convinced that this potential \$264 million project – with the help of the \$60 million INFRA funding – will help create economic opportunity both in allowing faster, more efficient commerce through Rhode Island's busiest commercial corridor and 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. Due to severe limitations of the necessary infrastructure funding to get this project built, repeated attempts to fix crumbling bridges and stop queuing of cars in this well-traveled commercial area have been stymied. There is a sense of urgency that this project moves forward to enhance both economic and safety conditions at both the local and regional level.

ACEC-RI enthusiastically supports RIDOT's INFRA Grant Application and looks forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with your Department in advancing the reconstruction of the most vital east-west link in our state's transportation infrastructure today. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Marcel A. Valois

Executive Director