

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Committee on Appropriations
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:


We write in support of the application for the Providence Interstate 95 (I-95) Northbound Viaduct project submitted by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) under the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program.

The Providence Viaduct is a critical segment of I-95 and a vital link on both the National Highway System and National Highway Freight Network. Built in the 1960's to serve an estimated daily volume of 57,000 vehicles, the Viaduct now carries nearly four times as many cars and trucks (220,000) each day, making it is one of the most highly traveled segments of I-95 in the Northeast. Decades of heavy use have left the Viaduct in poor structural condition, and its reconstruction is a top priority for the State of Rhode Island.


Having recently completed the replacement of the southbound span of the Viaduct, RIDOT is now planning to vastly improve the configuration of the northbound span and its related interchanges. This more expansive design will improve safety and reduce congestion. Moreover, it will ensure that the new Viaduct will be durable and can meet traffic demands for decades into the future. However, RIDOT will not be able to undertake this forward-thinking vision without an INFRA grant.

We strongly support RIDOT's proposal as a commonsense and long-term solution to a significant infrastructure challenge for the State and the region, and we request that you thoroughly consider this application within all applicable rules and regulations. If we can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



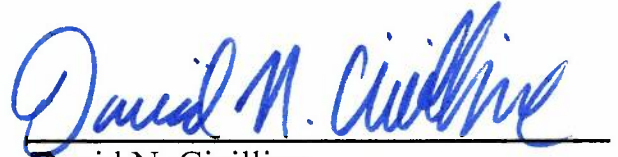
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress