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Gina M. Raimondo, Governor  
State of Rhode Island  
State House, Room 224  
Providence, RI 02903

*April 24, 2015*

**Re: Rhode Island FY13-16 STIP Amendment #5**

Dear Governor Raimondo:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have reviewed the Fiscal Years 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #5 submitted on March 31, 2015. This amendment aligns the transit portions of the program to match current funding programs as well as priorities at the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).

In accordance with the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and §450.324(b), a conformity determination is not needed since the projects in this amendment fall under the air quality conformity exemption for Mass Transit (40 CFR §93.126, Table 2).

Furthermore, we make the following determinations:

1. The projects in the STIP are based on a planning process that substantially meets the requirements of Title 23 U.S.C., the Federal Transit Act, and 23 CFR 450 A-C.
2. The component TIPs are based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively with the State, the MPOs, and the transit operators in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and §5303 of the Federal Transit Act.
3. The changes called for in this STIP amendment maintain financial constraint as required under 23 CFR 450.216 (m).

FTA and FHWA have determined that the STIP, as revised, substantially meets all requirements and is hereby approved. If you have any questions please send them to Nicolas Garcia (617-494-3940 | [nicolas.garcia@dot.gov](mailto:nicolas.garcia@dot.gov)) or Corey Bobba (401-528-4577 | [corey.bobba@dot.gov](mailto:corey.bobba@dot.gov)).

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Mello  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

  
Carlos Machado  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administrator

cc: Peter Alviti, Director – RIDOT  
Jared Rhodes, Chief – RISPP  
Ray Studley, General Manager – RIPTA  
Janet Coit, Director – RIDEM  
Curt Spalding, Administrator – EPA Region I



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
State House  
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Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor

March 31, 2015

Mr. Carlos C. Machado  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
380 Westminster Street, Suite 547  
Providence, RI 02903

Ms. Mary Beth Mello  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
Kendall Square  
55 Broadway, Suite 920  
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. Machado and Ms. Mello:

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has requested an amendment to the FY 2013-2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). After holding the required public hearing on January 22, 2015, the State Planning Council, which serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the State of Rhode Island, approved Major Amendment #5 to the TIP on March 13, 2015.

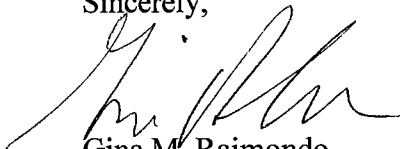
When the FY 2013-2016 TIP was drafted in 2012, the federal government was operating under a continuing resolution of the transportation authorization SAFETEA-LU. In producing funding forecasts for this TIP, RIPTA assumed flat funding to match the apportionments under SAFETEA-LU. With the July 2012 adoption of MAP-21, Rhode Island saw apportionments rise and the Town of Westerly added to the Norwich/New London urbanized area, which made new funds available to the entire State. TIP Amendment #5 realigns programs to reflect MAP-21's new categories of funding, distributes the new and increased apportionments, carries forward funding from the FY 2009-2012 TIP, shifts funds to match agency priorities and adds funds received as the result of a ferry boat discretionary grant.

Mr. Machado and Ms. Mello  
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I hereby approve the amended TIP and provide my assurance that the TIP and this amendment satisfy all requirements of state and federal laws and regulations. I request that you provide the appropriate approvals so that the transportation projects contained in this TIP amendment may proceed.

Enclosed are copies of the TIP amendment request from RIPTA, Public Hearing and Comment Period Report (draft), State Planning Council meeting minutes of March 13, 2015 (draft), amended TIP tables, and fiscal constraint analysis. If you have any questions regarding this action, please contact Karen Scott of the Statewide Planning Program at (401) 222-4411, or via email, at [karen.scott@doa.ri.gov](mailto:karen.scott@doa.ri.gov).

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor

Enclosure: TIP Major Amendment #5

cc: Mr. Peter Alviti, Jr., Director, RI Department of Transportation  
Mr. Ray Studley, CEO, RI Public Transit Authority  
Mr. Michael DiBiase, Chairman, State Planning Council  
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary, State Planning Council