



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

**Federal Transit Administration
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**Federal Highway Administration
Rhode Island Division
380 Westminster Mall, Rm 547
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(401) 528-4541
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Governor Lincoln D. Chafee
State of Rhode Island
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

April 4, 2013

Re: RI - FY 2013 -- 2016 State Transportation Implementation Plan (STIP) Approval

Dear Governor Chafee:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of the FY 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment, which was adopted by the State Planning Council/Metropolitan Planning Organization for the State of Rhode Island on February 28, 2013.

In accordance with the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and 23 CFR § 450.324(b), a conformity determination does not need to be completed since projects in this amendment do not impact the previous conformity determination. Furthermore, we are making 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 Subparts A, B, and C of 23 CFR 450.
2. The TIP is based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively with the State, the MPO, and the transit operator in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and §5303 of the Federal Transit Act.
3. The STIP is determined to be in conformance with the State Implementation Plan for air quality requirements of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93.

Accordingly, the FHWA and the FTA have jointly determined that the Rhode Island STIP Amendment is hereby approved. If there are any questions regarding this action, please feel free to contact Corey Bobba of the FHWA at 401-528-4577 or William Gordon of FTA at 617-494-3514.

Sincerely,

Daniel Berman
Acting Division Administrator
Rhode Island Division

Mary Beth Mello
Regional Administrator
Region I

Cc: Mr. Michael Lewis, Director -- RIDOT
Mr. Jared Rhode, Chief -- RISPP
Mr. Ray Studley, Interim CEO - RIPTA
Ms. Janet Coit, Director -- RIDEM



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

March 15, 2013

Ms. Mary Beth Melo
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142

Mr. Daniel J. Berman
Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
380 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. Melo & Mr. Berman:

The Transportation Advisory Committee approved Minor Amendment #1 to the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for federal fiscal years 2013-2016 on February 28, 2012. This amendment was requested by the Town of Westerly. Since the most recent call for proposals for the FY 2013-2016 TIP, the Town has been working with the Watch Hill Conservancy to make significant upgrades to Westerly's historic Watch Hill commercial area centered on Bay Street. The goal of these upgrades is to provide for safer pedestrian mobility and lengthen the Bay Street commercial district operating season past the summer months.

The Town of Westerly and the Watch Hill Conservancy have each dedicated \$15,000 (total \$30,000) for the necessary architectural and engineering design to complete streetscape enhancements including restoring sidewalks to ADA standards, resetting curbing to restore the storm water gutter line, improving pedestrian lighting, roadway paving, installing new crosswalks, and providing sidewalk furnishing for pedestrians. The total cost of the proposed improvements is \$563,000.

In addition, the Town was awarded Community Development Block Grant disaster relief (CDBG-DR) funding in the amount of \$1.03 million for drainage improvements and repaving on Canal Street (Railroad Street to White

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Rock Road) and White Rock Road (entire length). Repaving Canal Street (Railroad Street to High Street) was originally in the TIP for \$2.25 million (\$2 million in the Pavement Management Program and \$0.25 million in the Enhancement Program). The CDBG-DR funding will now complete some of the work that was already scheduled in the TIP.

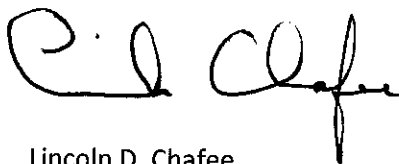
The Town proposed to reduce the amount of funding in the Canal Street paving project by \$563,000 to \$1.69 million to reflect the CDBG-DR award. The Town also proposed that the Bay Street Infrastructure Project as outlined above be added to the TIP in the amount of \$563,000 in FY 2014.

This amendment was classified as a minor amendment which required a public hearing and final decision by the TAC with notice to the State Planning Council. The public hearing was held before the TAC on February 28, 2013. Staff has determined, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) concurs, that an Air Quality Conformity determination is not required, and the current analysis (completed for the FY 2013-2016 TIP) remains valid.

I hereby approve the amended TIP and provide my assurance that the TIP, this amendment, and any future amendments will satisfy all requirements of state and federal law, regulation, and guidance. I request that you provide the appropriate approvals and certifications so that the transportation projects contained in this TIP may proceed.

Enclosed are copies of the draft Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of February 28, 2013, the draft Public Hearing and Comment Period Report, documentation confirming fiscal constraint, a complete set of amended TIP Tables, and the air quality concurrence letter from RIDEM. If you have any questions about this action, please contact Ms. Linsey Callaghan of the Statewide Planning Program at (401) 222-6479 or linsey.callaghan@doa.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

Enclosures: 4

cc: Mr. Michael P. Lewis, Director, RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Ray Studley, Interim CEO, RI Public Transit Authority
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Chairman, State Planning Council
Ms. Anne E. Arnold, Manager, Environmental Protection Agency