

American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund Recommendation Cover Sheet

Please submit this document with any recommendations for funding from Rhode Island's allocation of federal fiscal recovery funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act. This information will be made available to the public along with any detailed documents submitted that describe the proposal. It is encouraged that such documents identify clear goals and objectives and quantifiable metrics.

This is not a formal request for funds, and submission of recommendations does not guarantee a response, public hearing, or appropriation from the General Assembly.

Name of Lead Agency: Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

Additional agencies making recommendation (if applicable): _____

Contact Person / Title: Lori Caron Silveira Phone: 401-423-0800

Address: One East Shore Road, Jamestown, RI 02835

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Brief Project Description (attachments should contain details)

Total request: \$ 1,500,000

One-time or Recurring Expense? One-time

ARPA Eligibility Category (check all that apply) – See link for further information
<https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/arpa/commdocs/Treasury%20-%20Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf>

- Respond to the public health emergency and its economic impacts X
- Premium pay to eligible workers _____
- Government services/state revenue replacement _____
- Water/sewer/broadband infrastructure _____



Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority
P.O. Box 437, Jamestown, RI 02835

October 27, 2021

**American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund
Conceptual Study Services for Suicide Prevention Measures
Jamestown Verrazzano, Claiborne Pell, Mount Hope, and Sakonnet River Bridges**

On behalf of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA), I would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide additional information related to RITBA's request to receive \$1,500,000 in funding from Rhode Island's allocation of federal fiscal recovery funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act.

In recent years legislative bills have been introduced for the installation of safety barriers or netting on the Claiborne Pell Bridge, Jamestown Bridge and Mount Hope Bridge ("Bridges"). To date, there has not been a study undertaken to provide further insight, and options, to mitigate the risk of suicides in the state as a whole and specifically those that occur on the Bridges that RITBA manages and operates. RITBA has installed signage on the bridges in an effort to offer help to those individuals contemplating suicide. Additionally, suicide prevention measures such as a video monitoring and intercom system on both the Mount Hope and Claiborne Pell Bridges that includes enhanced monitoring and incident detection capabilities using video analytics are in the process of being installed. Based on the current signage, coupled with these new detection and prevention measures, RITBA recommends a study to further understand what additional prevention measures should be considered, the cost and funding options available, and the potential timeframe for implementing such detection and preventive measures.

RITBA is proposing that a study be commissioned to evaluate options that will further prevent and address the risk of suicides on the Bridges. The scope of the services to be provided under this study may consist of, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- Signage or other means of communication regarding public health options;
- Camera and/or other technology installation;
- Physical barrier and/or netting installation;
- Structural issues and any on-going maintenance costs associated with incorporating physical components;
- Interference with maintenance equipment and operations;
- Historic and/or environmental challenges;
- Order of magnitude cost estimation;

- Community concerns/involvement;
- Emergency response; and
- Other related elements to support above scope items.

Any physical suicide deterrent measures may include structural modifications (or retrofitting) to the Bridges, which may be extensive, since these bridges were not designed to include additional structures. For any physical deterrent measures identified, design and a rough order of magnitude for the construction costs and any on-going maintenance costs will be developed. This will ensure that the integrity of the Bridges is not compromised for our two oldest bridges, the Mount Hope Bridge constructed in 1929 and the Claiborne Pell Bridge constructed in 1969.

RITBA's 10-year capital plan does not include funding for this study, nor any potential recommendations and resulting costs associated with additional prevention and detection measures.

Upon receipt or commitment of funding, RITBA is prepared to engage with an external consultant within ninety (90) days to start the study. This study would be completed in 9-12 months from issuance of a notice to proceed to consultant(s).

I would be pleased to speak with you to provide any additional information. I can be reached by phone: 401-423-0800 or email lsilveira.org.

Thank You,

Lori Caron Silveira
Executive Director