



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Department of Transportation
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RE: 2025 H 5777 - RELATING TO HIGHWAYS –RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Dear Chairman Abney:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to offer this letter of opposition on H- 5777, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS – THE RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY. Repeals the act authorizing toll facilities on state roads

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) vehemently opposes this bill. Since the successful passage of RhodeWorks in 2016, H-7409aa, RIDOT has invested more than \$4.0 billion into the repair of our transportation system in the last nine years. Below are just a few of the highlights of RIDOT's successes under RhodeWorks:

- Repaired or replaced more than 290 bridges.
- Remain on target to reduce our inventory of structurally deficient bridges to less than 10 percent by the end of next year – delivering on a promise to reduce the nation's leading bridge deficiency rate of 27 percent in 2016 to 10 percent in 10 years.
- Paved 2,005 lane mile of roads and made numerous safety advancements on them.
- Repaired our drainage system and brought it into compliance with EPA environmental standards.
- Built a new train station, repaired three others and launched a highly successful ferry service between Providence and Newport.
- Implemented a new project management organizational structure in our project delivery divisions that has delivered projects over 95% on-time and on-budget.
- Created a new Asset Management based 10-year planning system.
- Improved our infrastructure maintenance resources and capabilities.

These projects have created thousands of good paying jobs, yielding significant economic benefits across the state. This dedicated funding stream provides the additional funding necessary to allow RIDOT to complete its mission of improving the state's transportation infrastructure. It is vitally important that the RhodeWorks legislation be preserved. Again, we strongly oppose the passage of this bill.

RIDOT is available to provide any answers or information the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Alvit, Jr., P.E.
Director, Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee
The Honorable Robert J. Quattrocchi
Nicole McCarty Esq, Chief Legal Counsel