



March 31, 2016

Jared Rhodes, Secretary
State Planning Council
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Request for TIP Amendment

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to request a TIP Amendment adding two new categories to the FFY 2016 Transit program.

RIPTA seeks to amend the TIP to include the Downtown Providence Enhanced Transit Corridor project. This project will provide scheduled, frequent bus service through the heart of Downtown Providence along a 1.4-mile corridor, connecting some of Rhode Island's largest employment hubs and world-class institutions to the downtown core and adjacent neighborhoods. Service will be provided as frequently as every five minutes during peak hours.

Bus stops along the corridor will include a high level of passenger amenities including branding, bus shelters, seating, real time arrival information, increased signage, ticket vending machines for off-board fare payment, WiFi, and integrated bike-share amenities. New branding will make the route and the buses that serve it easily recognizable for passengers.

The total project cost is \$17 million, funded through a \$13 M federal TIGER grant and \$4 M in state RICAP and Highway Maintenance Account funds. It is anticipated that preliminary engineering work will begin in Fall 2016 and that the project will move to the final design phase in Spring 2017. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring or Summer 2018.

The TIGER grant was awarded to the City of Providence with RIPTA named as the fiscal agent. Fiscal Constraint is maintained because local match for the project is identified from the RICAP program and Highway Maintenance Account. Note that although the funds will be granted in 2016 in accordance with Federal Transit Administration requirements, state match will be drawn down over several years as project costs are incurred.

In addition, RIPTA is requesting a one-time apportionment of \$54,066 of federal formula State of Good Repair High Intensity Bus program funding (Section 5337). These funds were generated from mileage associated with buses running through the East Side Bus Tunnel. Funds will be directed to repairs associated with programmed improvements

for the East Side Bus Tunnel. Fiscal constraint is maintained because RIPTA will use \$13,517 in operating budget funds for the required 20% match.

The Amendment is summarized as follows:

Line Item	TIP Category	Project	Activity	Old FY 2016 TIP Amount (Millions)	New FY 2016 TIP Amount (Millions)	Change	Funding
Providence Enhanced Transit Corridor	Bus	Major Projects	Upgrades	N/A	\$ 17.000	\$ 17.000	Total
					\$ 13.000	\$ 13.000	TIGER
					\$ 4.000	\$ 4.000	RICAP/HWM
East Side Bus Tunnel	Bus	Facilities, Passenger	Rehab/Renovation	N/A	\$ 0.068	\$ 0.068	Total
					\$ 0.054	\$ 0.054	FTA 5337 - HIB
					\$ 0.014	\$ 0.014	RIPTA Operations

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 784-9500 x216 with any questions or concerns related to this proposed Amendment. Thank you for your continued assistance with the management of the TIP.

Sincerely,



Amy Pettine
Executive Director, Planning