



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

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September 18, 2019

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

Subject: Rhode Island FY18-27 STIP Amendment #19 Approval

Dear Governor Raimondo:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of the Fiscal Year 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #19 transmitted by you on August 30, 2019. This amendment makes changes to many RIDOT programs and projects. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which in Rhode Island covers the entire State as the STIP, was amended by the State Planning Council Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on August 29, 2019.

As a result of the February 16, 2018 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *South Coast Air Quality Management District vs. EPA*, No. 15-1115, the MPO, which covers the Providence, RI nonattainment area for the 1997 ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) is required to make a conformity determination on TIP amendments in accordance with 40 CFR 93.104. FHWA and FTA have coordinated with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 1 office, and on September 17, 2019 the EPA determined that the analysis completed supports U.S. DOT in making a positive conformity determination for the Providence, RI nonattainment area under the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. FHWA and FTA, therefore, have determined that the TIP, as amended, is in conformity with the goals of the State Implementation Plan, is consistent with the Clean Air Act, and is consistent with the EPA conformity regulations as stated in 40 CFR Part 93. The conformity determination of the TIP will remain in effect until a new determination is required by 40 CFR 93.104.

Furthermore, we make the following determinations:

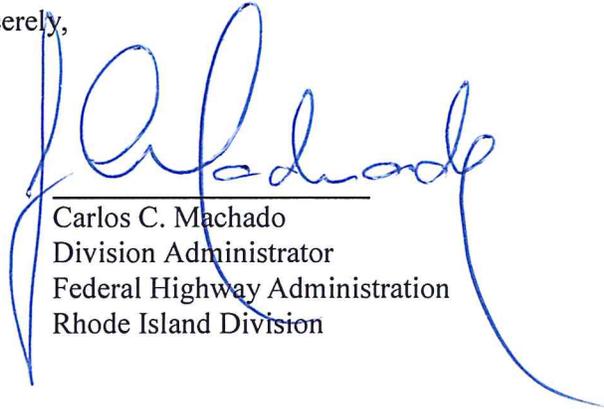
1. The projects in the STIP are based on a planning process that substantially meets the requirements of Title 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. Section 5303-5305, and 23 C.F.R. 450 Subparts A, B, and C.
2. The component TIP is based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation planning process carried on cooperatively with the State, the MPO, and the transit operators in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303.
3. The changes called for in this STIP amendment maintain financial constraint as required under 23 CFR 450.218.

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 Randy Warden (401-528-4031/randy.warden@dot.gov) or Leah Sirmin (617-494-2459/leah.sirmin@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Peter S. Butler

Peter Butler
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Region 1



Handwritten signature of Carlos C. Machado in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Carlos C. Machado
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Rhode Island Division

cc: Mr. Peter Alviti, Jr., Director, RIDOT
Mr. Scott Avedisian, CEO, RIPTA
Mr. Michael DiBiase, Chairman, State Planning Council
Ms. Meredith Brady, Secretary, State Planning Council