



 **E-Newsletter**



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RIDOT Drags Feet on RITA's FOIA Request

On Friday, the Rhode island Department of Transportation issued a response to RITA's November 30 Public Record's Request in advance of the December 14 deadline for response.

In the letter dated December 11, RIDOT responded as follows:

"Due to the number of requests pending, the office of Legal Services requires additional time to identify and locate the documents requested. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 38-2-7(b) this office will contact you on or before January 13, 2015(30th

business day)regarding information about your request."

In the November 30 letter, RITA requested information specific to toll gantry locations , traffic collection reports, the REMI Report and all correspondence between RIDOT and the Office of the

Governor and FHWA. Long frustrated by the lack of transparency relevant to RhodeWorks, RITA's request was supported by House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello who called upon Governor Raimondo to "tell the public the location" of the tolling gantries as "those are the questions which will certainly be asked by the House Finance Committee when the legislation is considered in the next session."

The delay adds further complications to the issue as the requested extension by RIDOT means that critical information needed at the outset of the legislative session which begins on January 5 may not be available to the trucking industry.

Governor Raimond and RIDOT contend that they cannot release gantry locations until it has FHWA approval. RITA strongly refutes this on the basis that the tolling locations - not the ability to toll - is immaterial to FHWA. RITA is currently seeking a formal response from FHWA on RIDOT's claim which it is using

ATRI Congestion Analysis Cites I-95/I-195 Exchange as 90th Worst Bottleneck in the Nation - Reinforces Truck Diversion

The American Transportation Research Institute(ATRI)has reported that the interchange of Routes I-95 and I-195 in Providence represent the 90th worst "bottleneck" location in the nation. The "bottleneck analysis incorporates and synthesizes several unique components including a massive database of truck GPS data at freight-significant locations throughout the Unites States whicj allows transportation analysts and planners to conduct performance benchmarking and identification of influential factors contributing to congestion and the requisite consequences on truck freight mobility.

"With an average speed of 44 miles per hour and 36 miles per hour during peak travel hours, carriers will certainly flag Providence as a location to consider diverting around, said Christopher Maxwell, president of RITA.

"Congestion is a large factor that many carriers examine when routing their fleets. The I-95 and I-195 area combined with the potential for truck-only tolling will fuel massive diversion around the state from carriers who will choose a less-congested route of I-395 to I-90. In this case, Rhode Island becomes a non-factor for through fright having no stops or interests in our state."

The I-93 and Rte. 128 exchange in Massachusetts, the next exchange north of Rhode Island, ranked 68th on ATRI's list further adding to the diversion factor for trucks traveling to northern New England. The ATRI study, which cited the Top 100 "Bottlenecks" nationwide, did not list the alternate route of Route 395 to I-95 in its



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membership. These programs are only as effective as the information and feedback we receive from YOU! So take a minute and please fill out the attached survey. HELP US HELP YOU!!!

Fleet Survey

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Need a New Home?

"Smart" Office Space Available...

Are you a professional who relies upon business from the trucking industry and would like to position your business strategically in a thriving atmosphere? RITA will be offering limited space within its facility beginning January 1. Interested parties should contact Chris Maxwell at (401)729-6600.

EVENTS CALENDAR.....

December 17 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

January 19, 2016 RITA Annual Meeting

Thought for the week:

"Primarily because Mother Nature is deteriorating the bridges..."

Peter Garino

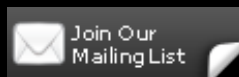
RIDOT Deputy Director

Chris

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