



# Town of Jamestown

## Resolution of the Town Council

### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-12 RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUPPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY

- WHEREAS,** The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) was created in 1954 by the Rhode Island General Assembly to acquire, maintain, and operate major bridges in the state. The RITBA initially operated and maintained the Mount Hope Bridge. It was then tasked with the construction of the Claiborne Pell Bridge which opened fifty-one years ago and was, and is, the longest suspension bridge in New England; and
- WHEREAS,** RITBA currently collects and uses dedicated revenue to operate and maintain the Newport Pell Bridge, the Jamestown Verrazano Bridge, Route 138 through Jamestown, the Mount Hope Bridge, and the Sakonnet River Bridge; and
- WHEREAS,** RITBA has kept the state's four largest bridges safe for vehicular travel and provided the needed maintenance throughout the years and has received honors from the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association; and
- WHEREAS,** the Newport Pell Bridge is a pivotal aspect of Jamestown and Newport's economy as it allows for the easy transport of people and cargo into Jamestown, Newport and all of Aquidneck Island; and
- WHEREAS,** the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) owns and maintains all the state's secondary bridges and has not done the same to maintain the safety of the bridges under its purview. In 2019, Rhode Island was deemed to have the worst bridges in America by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, and out of 780 bridges, 23.1% were structurally deficient and 721, or 92%, were in need of some repair; and
- WHEREAS,** proposed Rhode Island state legislation, or provisions in the state budget, may move RITBA revenues and the management authority of the state's four major bridges to RIDOT; and
- WHEREAS,** RIDOT would be able to, and likely would, redirect RITBA revenues from the maintenance of the four major bridges to bridges elsewhere in the state that have not been properly maintained and are in poorer condition; and
- WHEREAS,** although the state ranking of its bridges likely be improved by including RITBA's far better maintained bridges in the ranking analyses, RITBA's four bridges will likely suffer from deferred maintenance due to redirected funds;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** to protect the continued proper maintenance and safety of the four major bridges which are essential to the well-being of Jamestown and all of Aquidneck Island, the Jamestown Town Council opposes proposed state legislation and budget provisions that would transfer RITBA revenue and management authority to RIDOT; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this be forwarded to the Executive Director and Board of Directors of RITBA, every Rhode Island municipality, every State Senator, and every State Representative, as well as the Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, and Secretary of State.


Adopted at the Town Council Meeting of August 3, 2020

By Order of the Jamestown Town Council



Michael G. White, President

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby attach my hand and the official seal  
of the Town of Jamestown this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.



Erin F. Liese, CMC, Town Clerk

