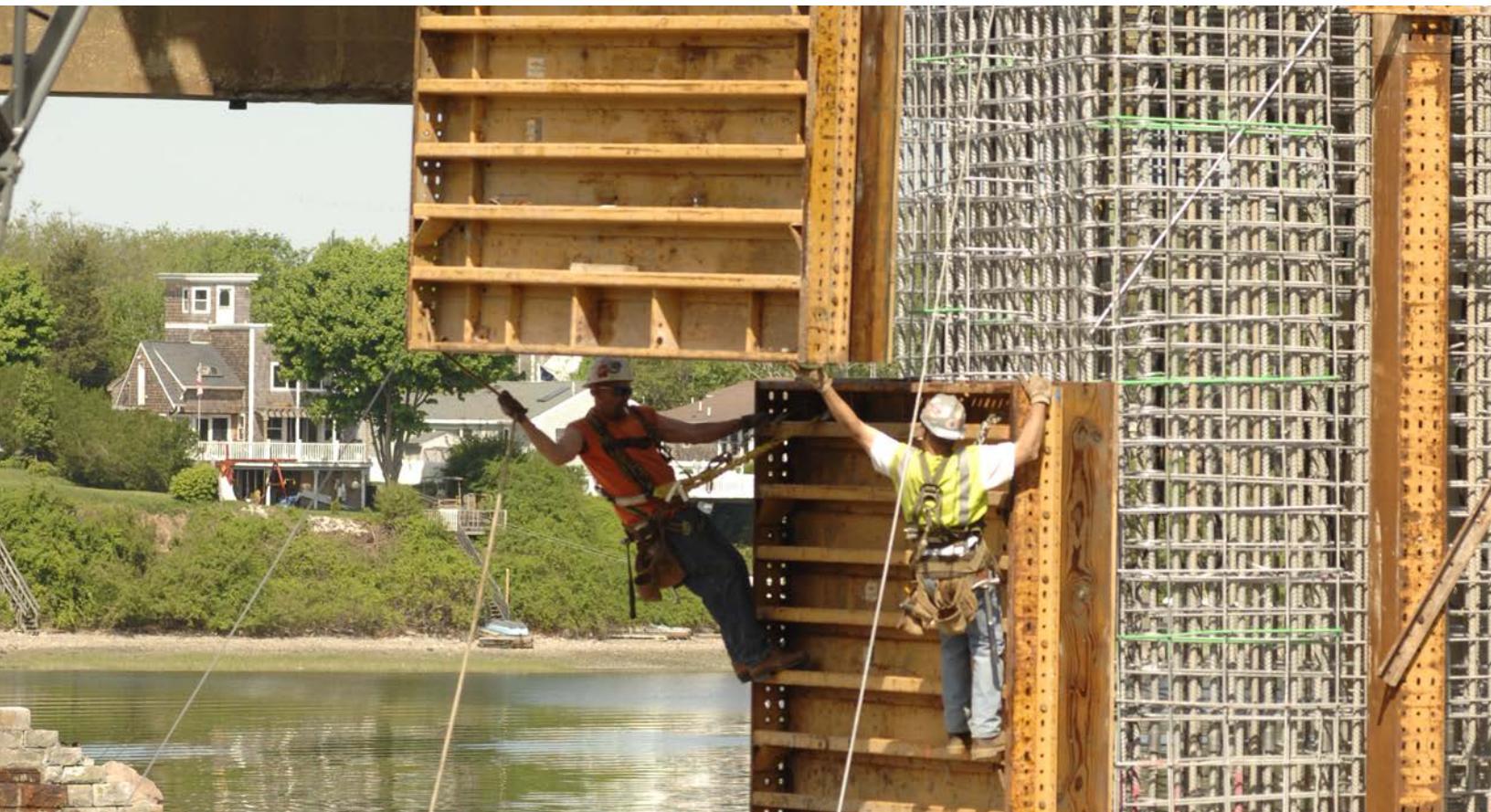




Construction Industries of Rhode Island



# Rhodework Review

Spring 2017

- Safety Program Expands
- RIDOT 2017 Program
- New CIRI Website

## President's Message

# The benefits of being a CIRI member:

There's never been a better time to join.



*Michael D. D'Ambra  
CIRI President*

Welcome to  
our new members.

### **IDS Highway Safety**

136 Scott Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864

### **McGill Hose & Coupling**

920 Broadway  
East Providence, RI 02914

### **Skanska USA Civil Northeast**

1365 Main Street  
Waltham, MA 02451



**CIRI**  
Construction Industries  
of Rhode Island

Heavy and highway construction has always been a complex industry. Today, that is truer than ever. Accordingly, CIRI continues to enhance the services we provide to our members to protect their business interests, while helping them to serve the interests of our state. Here are a few key examples:

#### **A negotiating partner for labor relations.**

A key focus for CIRI is to maintain working relationships with the building trades that are mutually beneficial to our members and theirs. Our Labor Relations Committee plays a valuable role in reaching consensus and collective bargaining agreements with Rhode Island's key trade unions. These partnerships are crucial to maintaining and improving our state's transportation infrastructure.

#### **An active advocate in the state legislature.**

CIRI actively represents the industry in legislative matters, while fostering relations with government departments and agencies whose programs affect the construction industry. In addition to an official role on the State Transportation Advisory Committee, we monitor all bills submitted to the General Assembly — while making CIRI's views known on issues of importance to the industry.

#### **Advocacy in Washington through ARTBA.**

As a member of the American Road & Transportation Builders of America (ARTBA), CIRI helps this dynamic

industry organization to preserve the vital role of the transportation design and construction industry in the American economy — while lending support to candidates who are champions for transportation investment. The technical and informational resources provided by ARTBA are an added advantage that benefits all CIRI members.

#### **A crucial resource for safety and compliance.**

The CIRI Safety Committee continues to deepen its commitment and expand the depth and breadth of its activities. Collaborative training/certification initiatives with key industry partners and allies. Toolbox talks to keep personnel up to date with safety awareness/knowledge. Special pricing on safety apparel and accessories through our preferred vendor. These are some of the growing number of ways we help member companies to protect their valued employees.

#### **We're always open for enrollment.**

Help us to spread the word. Any company that could benefit from joining CIRI is invited to call us at 401-738-8530 or email us at [exec@ciri.net](mailto:exec@ciri.net) for more information. Even better, visit our Join/Contact page to download a membership application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. D'Ambra".

*Michael D. D'Ambra  
CIRI President*

# New CIRI website launched to boost image and engagement.

New mobile-friendly design also more flexible for site visitors.

To complement the 2016 redesign of both our brand identity and our Rhodework Review newsletter, CIRI has launched a new website. The totally revamped site was conceived, designed and produced by Brennan-Fournier, the freelance creative team that also executed the brand identity and newsletter redesign initiatives.

"We felt it was time to modernize and strengthen our online presence,"

Enhanced access and functionality are additional reasons for the ground-up revamp. The new site's content management system (CMS) will make it easier to add articles and posts, update information, and to add new pages and sections.

"Web technology and design have come a long way since we launched our previous website in 2011," says Tim Scanlon, executive director of CIRI.



**Visit our new website:**

[www.ciri.net](http://www.ciri.net)

says Michael D. D'Ambra, president of CIRI. "The new site, like our new brand identity, needed to reflect our mission to evolve with our industry as our members help tackle the massive challenge of bringing Rhode Island's infrastructure up to date."



"We're excited to be able to leverage the capabilities of this new and improved site, as we continue to refine our communications, outreach and advocacy efforts."

# Brisk construction activity and career opportunities discussed at CIRI Fall Dinner Meeting.



**Joseph D. Baker, PE**  
*RIDOT Senior Civil Engineer*



**Amine Ghanem, PhD**  
*Roger Williams University  
Associate Professor of  
Construction Management*

RIDOT's Joe Baker and RWU Prof. Amine Ghanem featured at November 9 event.

As the RhodeWorks program kicked into full gear in 2016, RIDOT quickly put a substantial amount of road and bridge projects out to bid — rivaling pre-recession levels for the first time. This was the main topic of discussion at the annual CIRI Fall Dinner Meeting on November 9. Held at Alpine Country Club in Cranston, the event attracted 197 attendees from the CIRI membership. Featured speakers were:

**Joe Baker**  
**RIDOT Senior Civil Engineer**

Equipped with a dedicated and dependable source of state funds for the first time in its history, RIDOT hit the ground running with a dramatic increase in projects advertised and awarded. In his FFY 2016 recap, Joe Baker recounted a year which saw \$174M in advertised projects — \$74M greater than the volume advertised two years prior. \$200M in projects is slated for FFY 2017, with another increase planned for FFY 2018.

"The key focus of RhodeWorks is to get our bridges back where they need to be," Baker said, "and to reduce our structurally-deficient portion to less than 10% within a 10-year period."

Baker also pointed to RIDOT initiatives to increase transparency, while speeding up delivery. This has resulted in well-publicized successes such as the fast-track replacements of the East Shore Expressway Bridge in East Providence and the Hussey Bridge in

Wickford, along with the completion of the Apponaug Circulator in Warwick.

**Amine Ghanem, PhD**  
**RWU Associate Professor**

Part of the mission of the CIRI Industry Advancement Fund is to help support young industry hopefuls at the college level.

Professor Amine Ghanem of Roger Williams University was on hand to speak about the RWU Heavy/HIGHWAY Competition team, for which CIRI provides travel support.

With the members of his team in attendance, Dr. Ghanem described the three-day event — sponsored by the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) — which begins with a collaborative 14-hour workday, followed by formal team presentations the second day, and a Career Day with prominent participating companies on the third day. Over the years, the RWU team has enjoyed substantial success at this late-October event.

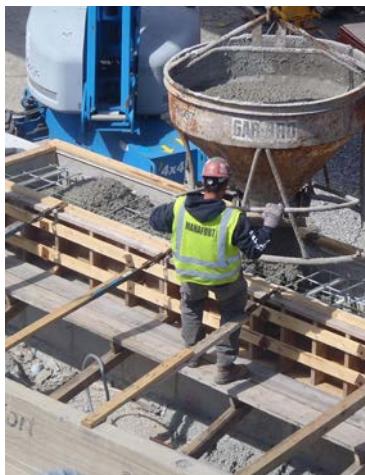
"We truly appreciate the support of our students by organizations like CIRI," Ghanem said. "The Heavy Civil sector is an area of interest we're looking to expand at RWU. And the ASC event is a great learning opportunity that puts them into a real-life construction experience."

# CIRI Safety Committee continues to expand initiative.

Free training events growing in popularity and scope.



*Pictured here at the 2017 CIRI MSHA Safety Seminar are: Michael Flaherty and Peter Jacavone III, sales managers for Starkweather & Shepley; Robert Dow, MSHA supervisory inspector; Michael D. D'Ambra, CIRI president; and Peter Robbins, chairman of the CIRI Safety Committee.*



## **Recent Training & Seminar Events**

*Highway Tech & Supervisor Certifications*

*Excavation Competence Person Training*

*CPR / First Aid Class*

*Crane & Rigging Seminar*

*Rigging & Signaling Training*

*Construction Insurance Seminar*

*ESHI Mine Safety Training*

For CIRI member companies, the less-active winter season provides a good opportunity for jobsite personnel to shore up their knowledge to achieve and maintain key certifications. In the lead-up to peak construction season, the CIRI Safety Committee again provided a variety of courses and seminars — all of them free for employees of CIRI member companies.

"We've generated great response with numerous attendees across our diverse slate of courses and seminars," says Peter Robbins, Chairman of the CIRI Safety Committee, "and participation continues to increase. The word is getting out that we're running a very worthwhile safety education program, both through our network of safety managers and through companies who've taken advantage of this opportunity."

## **Widening access beyond the CIRI membership.**

The 2016-2017 training season also

marks the first time events sponsored or co-sponsored by CIRI have been formally offered via additional organizations such as AGC-RI and NUCARI here in Rhode Island, along with MA trade groups such as CIM and the MAAPA. This is in addition to the RI unions who have previously sent workers to attend the CIRI programs.

The programs themselves are often a collaborative effort, involving key transportation construction industry partners/allies along with other companies serving our sector. A good example is the recent Construction Insurance Seminar presented and funded by Starkweather & Shepley.

## **Tapping the committee's synergy for the greater good.**

Driven by its regular monthly meetings, the CIRI Safety/EEO/Training Committee openly shares safety-related information, resources and best practices among the group. The knowledge and expertise amassed by the group also assists CIRI's advocacy efforts concerning safety legislation being proposed.

"Safety is too important for this effort to be a competitive one," Robbins concludes. "We have some very experienced safety pros on the committee and across our membership. This enables us to help elevate the quality and effectiveness of safety programs across our member companies. It also gives us a knowledgeable voice that legislators respect, as we advocate for or against various bills being proposed on the state or national level."

# RIDOT plans to award over \$200M in contracts in 2017.



*RIDOT Director, Peter Alviti, Jr., announcing federal government approval of the 10-year RhodeWorks plan.*



*Great Island Bridge • Narragansett*

RhodeWorks Q1 & Q2 reports offer details on program accomplishments.

On January 30 and April 28, RIDOT issued a news release/report tandem summarizing progress made by the RhodeWorks program during the first and second quarters of FFY 2017. Key highlights from these two reports include:

**A substantial increase in advertised work in 2016.** During FFY 2016, RIDOT issued \$174M worth of construction contracts — \$60M more than the previous year and \$74M more than 2014.

**A related increase in construction jobs.** Overall, Rhode Island has benefitted from a net gain of 1,100 construction jobs between March 2016 and March 2017.

**Reduction of structurally deficient bridges.** During Q1 and Q2, a total of 18 bridges were removed from the structurally-deficient list, partially offset by the addition of 8 bridges to the list.

**Bridge toll facilities.** RIDOT has received six proposals for the Design-Build-Operate-Maintain (DBOM) contract for the tolling program. The proposals are under review with a contract award scheduled by the end of May.

**Jump-start funding for major projects.** In addition to revitalizing the RIDOT annual program, RhodeWorks is enabling the launch of multiple projects that have previously languished on the drawing boards. The most prominent is the replacement of the Routes 6/10 Interchange, a badly deteriorated network of bridges.

In response to its Request for Qualifications (RFQ), RIDOT received responses from two interested design-build teams. An RFP is now being drafted for issuance to the qualifying teams by the end of May.

## RIDOT FFY17 Program Update

Project	Expected Award	Value (\$M)
<b>FFY 2017 4Q • 7.1.17 to 9.30.17</b>		
Big River Bridge	Jul 2017	1.5
Blackstone Bikeway 8C	Sep 2017	2.8
Coventry - Local Safety Improvements	Sep 2017	0.3
Cumberland I-295 Corridor Bridges	Sep 2017	12.5
Gano Street Improvements (India to Trenton)	Sep 2017	1.4

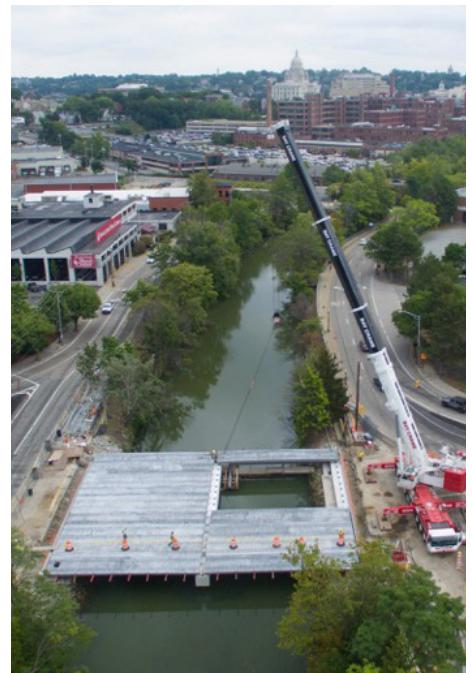
Hope Valley Bridges	Sep 2017	3.5
I-95 Corridor Bridge Washing	Jul 2017	5.6
Oxford Street Bridge	Sep 2017	5.0
Route 24 Improvements - Portsmouth	Sep 2017	6.0
Simmonsville Bridge	Sep 2017	1.5
South (Rtes 2 & 102 Roundabout) HSIP	Sep 2017	2.5
Victory Highway Bridge	Sep 2017	7.5
Wood River Valley Bridge, I-95 N&S	Jul 2017	6.8
<b>4Q subtotal</b>		<b>56.9</b>

**FFY 2018 1Q • 10.1.17 to 12.31.17**

Aquidneck Avenue Improvements	Dec 2017	0.9
Baker Pines Bridge	Oct 2017	5.0
Browning Mill Bridge	Oct 2017	0.9
Central RI Bridges (32) – Group 12	Dec 2017	14.5
Cranston - Local Safety Improvements	Dec 2017	0.3
Diamond Hill Road Improvements	Dec 2017	0.9
I-195 Corridor Bridges (77)	Dec 2017	20.0
I-295 Bridges - Contract 1	Dec 2017	12.0
I-295 Bridges - Contract 2	Dec 2017	20.0
I-95 Corridor Bridge	Dec 2017	7.0
I-95 N&S Bridges at Tollgate Road	Dec 2017	17.0
I-95 Resurfacing C-2 (Pawtucket)	Oct 2017	3.0
Metacom Avenue - HSIP	Nov 2017	3.1
Park Avenue RR Bridge	Nov 2017	2.6
Snell Road Improvements	Oct 2017	0.8
US Route 6 (Hartford Ave)	Dec 2017	5.5
Woodville Road Improvements	Oct 2017	4.2
<b>1Q subtotal (FY18)</b>		<b>117.1</b>

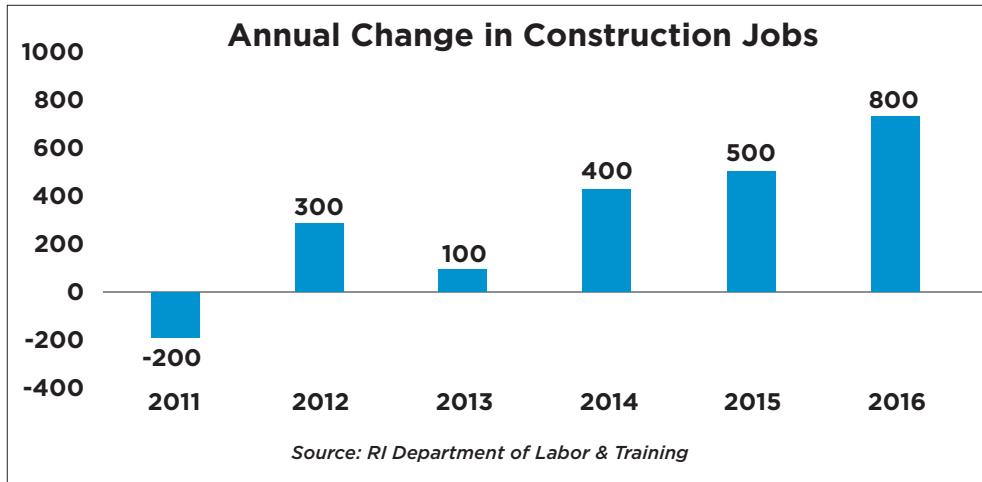


*Central Bridge • Barrington*



*Pleasant Valley Parkway Bridge • Providence*

For more details on the current state and future projections for RhodeWorks, visit the Accountability page on the RIDOT website: [www.dot.ri.gov](http://www.dot.ri.gov)



*Site of dual fast-track bridge replacements in East Providence*

#### **Construction jobs continue to rise.**

By the end of 2016, Rhode Island had added 800 construction jobs during the year. The extra impetus from RhodeWorks exceeded the 400 jobs and 500 jobs created, respectively, in 2014 and 2015.



## Legislative Watch

Issues on the horizon in the RI General Assembly.

Our organization's activities in government relations provide a significant service to CIRI members and the construction industry at large. During the 2017 General Assembly sessions, CIRI's efforts have again included monitoring of all bills submitted to the General Assembly – along with active advocacy to make our views known on issues of importance.

Here are proposed bills the CIRI Legislative Committee has identified as concerns for our industry, which call for active opposition by our membership:

**Creation of a RIDOT economic relief fund.** This proposed legislation in the House (H-5025) would create an economic hardship relief fund from penalties imposed on contractors for past due road or bridge projects – to be paid to business owners who can show a decline in revenue as a result of the past due completion.

**Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act.** A bill (H-5413) that would require all employers to provide

their employees with a minimum level of paid sick and safety leave, including time to care for the employee's family members.

**Healthy Workplace Act.** If passed, this act (H-5862) would establish a cause of action against employers and employees for workplace bullying, harassment and other abusive conduct that is tolerated by employers.

**Extraction/blasting oversight for Charlestown.** Matching bills in the House and Senate (H-5983 & S-751) propose to authorize the Town of Charlestown to regulate earth removal extraction and blasting operations within the town.

**Defining lead entities and potential liabilities.** This Senate bill (S-771) looks to require lead entities to share "all civil legal responsibility and civil liability for all workers supplied by that labor contractor for any violation of title 28." Liability would extend to a corporation's president, treasurer and any management officers or agents.

# Trump administration proposes 2018 transportation budget.

Program changes would affect New Starts and TIGER grants.

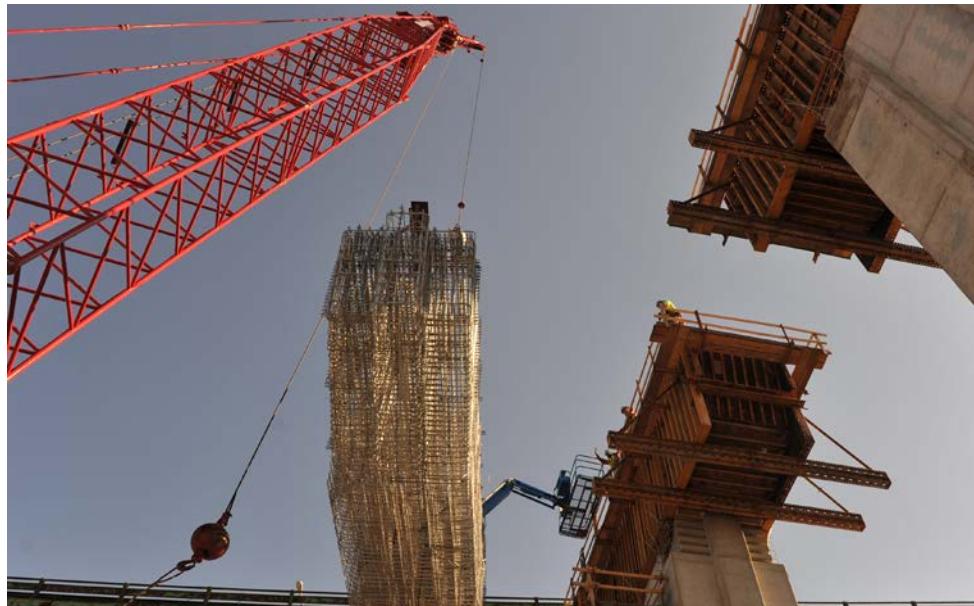
While the administration's budget details President Trump's spending priorities, it does not provide the normal program-by-program details typically seen from a president who has been in office longer than two months.

The budget request suggests five specific changes to current discretionary transportation programs, two of which are of importance to the transportation construction industry. Specifically:

- The budget proposes eliminating all future federal funds for transit capital grants, also known as the New Starts program, which isn't already part of a previously affirmed full-funding grant agreement. The Fixing America's

ARTBA has long supported federal investment in transit capital projects under the New Starts program and will work to ensure it remains a key component of federal surface transportation investment.

- The administration is proposing to eliminate TIGER discretionary grants — a program created by the Obama administration that provides funding for multi-modal projects and has become popular on Capitol Hill among Democrats and Republicans. Since 2009, the TIGER program has invested \$4.6 billion in transportation projects — of which 33 percent has gone to roadway projects (the largest modal recipient).



Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorized \$2.3 billion each year from FY 2016 through FY 2020 for transit construction grants. The blueprint states, "Future investments in new transit projects would be funded by the localities that use and benefit from these localized projects."

According to the budget request, the administration views this program as duplicative to funding available under the highway formula programs and the FAST Act-authorized Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects grant program. If Congress follows through on this request, it would be a \$500 million cut from FY 2016 spending levels.



*Excerpt reprinted with the permission of ARTBA:  
the American Road and Transportation Builders  
Association.*

# Support the CIRI Political Action Committee:

Your advocate in a sea of proposed legislation.

Every January, the Rhode Island Legislature convenes for the better part of six months to propose new laws. Many of these laws, if passed, will affect the operation and profitability of our industry — and not in a good way.

The CIRI Political Action Committee (PAC) needs your help today. As we speak, CIRI is representing your best interests during the current General Assembly session. Plus, during election season, the CIRI PAC provides financial support to help elect candidates who understand and advocate for our industry and the RI economy.

## **Contributions are more than welcome. They're crucial.**

Please consider a personal contribution to the CIRI PAC today.\* We welcome any amount you feel is appropriate. It's money we put to good use to keep our message front and center with legislators at the RI State House. And to support candidates who can have a positive effect on our industry and your business.

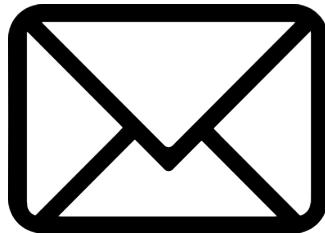
### **Please mail contributions to:**

CIRI Political Action Committee  
615 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 207  
Warwick, RI 02886-1357

*\*NOTE: Rhode Island State Law prohibits the acceptance of any corporate or business checks for campaign contributions. Only personal checks are an acceptable form of contribution. Donations are not tax deductible and are limited to \$1,000.*

## **Member Email Addresses: Desperately Needed**

If you haven't sent us your email address yet, please do so. We really need to complete our email database, in order to simplify and streamline the member notification process. It'll only take you a minute to send a quick email to [exec@ciri.net](mailto:exec@ciri.net). So why not now?



Construction Industries of Rhode Island

615 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02886  
401.738.8530  
401.732.2892 fax  
[www.ciri.net](http://www.ciri.net)

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