

# Rhodework Review

Spring 2019



Construction Industries of Rhode Island

Dig Safe Safety Event • Legislative Watch • Truck Tolling Success

## President's Message

# America is past due for a viable infrastructure plan.



*Stephen A. Cardi II*  
*CIRI President*

At the invitation of Congressman Jim Langevin of Rhode Island, who continues to be a strong advocate for new infrastructure investment, I had the honor of attending the 2019 State of the Union address by President Trump on the 5th of February. In addition to being able to attend the main address in the US House chamber, the wider activities around the event presented a significant opportunity to advocate for bipartisan proposals to invest in our national infrastructure.

As a Director for the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), I've been involved in countless conversations and debates about what needs to be done. It always comes down to the fact that we need an effectively funded plan out of Washington that takes a long-range view.

### **The status of the US Highway Trust Fund.**

In 1956, the US Highway Trust Fund (HTF) was established to finance

the Interstate Highway System and other roads. Its mission has been expanded over the years to include transit and environmental initiatives. To this day, it is still funded by per-gallon federal fuel taxes on gasoline (18.4¢) and diesel (24.4¢), along with related excise taxes. The last increase for these rates was 26 years ago in 1993.

The problem with the gas tax is twofold. First, it is not indexed to account for inflation. Second, since people today are driving fewer miles with more efficient vehicles, the yield from these taxes continues to diminish.

### **The winding road of the last 15 years.**

Since the mid-2000s, proposals to find a better way to fund the HTF have varied greatly, often along partisan lines. From 2008 to 2013, Congress transferred billions of dollars from the General Fund to make up for the continual shortfall. This period included a string of five-year and six-year surface transportation funds reauthorizations. The two-year MAP-21 reauthorization took us to September 2014. The stopgap FAST Act, the first six-year surface transportation reauthorization by Congress in a decade, will expire in 2020.

### **Where we are right now.**

The fact that our nation's aging infrastructure is in dire need of repair is something all lawmakers can agree on. According to the 2018 Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum, the US now ranks 9th in the world for

overall infrastructure, and 11th in the world for the quality of its roads.

Our country needs safe, reliable and modern roads and bridges that will meet the demands of personal and professional life, while promoting a stronger economy. Transportation industry leaders, both here and nationally, are looking to the Trump administration and Congress to make this a bipartisan priority for 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Cardi II". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephen A. Cardi II



*RI Congressman James R. Langevin with Steve Cardi, CIRI president, his guest to attend the 2019 State of the Union address by President Trump.*

# RhodeWorks success and road ahead discussed at CIRI Fall Dinner Meeting.

Senate President Ruggiero and RIDOT Director Alviti were featured speakers at November 15 event.

At our annual Fall Dinner Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, CIRI members were presented with a big-picture review of what transpired during the 2018 construction season in Rhode Island — along with a general lookahead for 2019.

The speaking program began with a welcome/introduction by Steve Cardi, CIRI president, who touched briefly on a few topics. These ranged from RIDOT's new procurement software system, to new regulations for traffic control flaggers, to the need to negotiate for more realistic DBE percentages on projects. The event's featured speakers were:

## **Senator Domenick J. Ruggiero RI Senate President**

The senior member of the RI Senate, Senator Ruggiero is also a retired administrator for the New England Laborers' Labor-Management Cooperation Trust. A jobsite laborer in his early years, Ruggiero remarked on the substantial improvements already made on Rhode Island's roads and bridges via the RhodeWorks program within a relatively short period of time. Ruggiero also commented on legislation he helped to champion for the reduction of the RI top marginal tax rate.

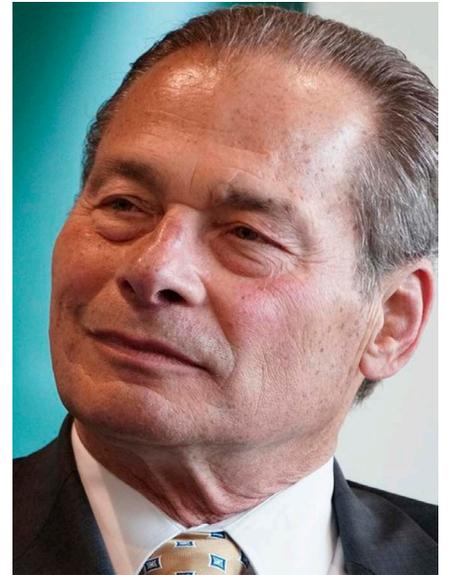
"I think we've made RI a little more competitive in the business aspect," Ruggiero said. "We haven't seen anything like this in 40 years. Unemployment, which was up to 11% (during the recession), is down to less than 4%."

## **Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E. RIDOT Director**

Director Alviti of RIDOT presented a big-picture summation of the RhodeWorks program achievements, while thanking CIRI and its member companies for being energized, effective and quality-focused partners from the outset.

"In the first three years of RhodeWorks, we've accomplished exactly what was planned," said Alviti. "We have over 100 projects on the street right now valued at about \$900 million. The rest of the 10-year plan is intact. And we're taking the opportunity to use the relationships, coalitions and teams created over the last three years to bring RhodeWorks to another level. We want to create a new transportation system that is world-class, not settle for a transportation system that is just "in good repair."

Alviti also expressed admiration for the supportive efforts of Senator Ruggiero, the previous speaker, who helped to spearhead the original RhodeWorks legislation as then Senate Majority Leader. "It took a lot of political capital and courage to do the right thing, Alviti said. "The data showed it, the bridges needed it, and the people of Rhode Island deserved it. That kind of courage is rare."



**Senator Domenick J. Ruggiero**



**Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E.**

*To view the most up-to-date infrastructure plans and news, visit the RhodeWorks section of the RIDOT website at: [www.dot.ri.gov/rhodeworks](http://www.dot.ri.gov/rhodeworks)*

# Latest STIP report outlines path forward for 2019.

Key roadmap for ongoing RhodeWorks success.

On April 2, RIDOT released the latest update to its State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) report — as mandated by federal regulations for highway and transit funds — detailing expected revenue sources and forecasted expenditures over the next four federal fiscal years.

In calendar year 2018 alone, RIDOT successfully initiated over 100 projects with a combined value of about \$900 million. For the 2019 construction season, the agency forecasts the advertising and award of a similar number of projects statewide, as it continues to execute the fully funded RhodeWorks 10-year plan.

To view and/or download the full STIP document, visit the homepage for the RI Division of Statewide Planning at: [www.planning.ri.gov/planning-areas/transportation/tip.php](http://www.planning.ri.gov/planning-areas/transportation/tip.php)

*The tables shown here outline all federal and state resources reasonably expected to be available to RIDOT between FFY 2018-2021, as well as planned expenditures, meeting federal requirements for the STIP to fiscally constrained.*



## RIDOT Funding Sources

in millions of dollars • updated 4.2.19

Highway - State	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	4-Yr Totals
Gas Tax	85.56	91.44	90.08	90.20	357.28
RICAP Funds	30.60	30.60	30.60	30.60	122.40
RI Highway Maintenance Account	78.10	85.35	87.50	87.70	338.65
RICAP for Maintenance Facility	4.80	4.20	4.30	4.30	17.60
Project Closeouts	8.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	23.00
Land Sales	4.03	2.87	1.00	1.00	8.90
GARVEE Bond Proceeds	85.00	77.00	45.00	0.00	207.00
Transit Hub Bond	5.00	20.00	7.00	3.00	35.00
RICAP for Pavement Projects	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	60.00
Third Party Funding	1.00	3.50	1.00	1.00	4.50
Toll Revenue	19.00	44.80	44.80	44.80	153.40
Prior Year Funds	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
<b>Total RIDOT State Sources</b>	<b>325.09</b>	<b>387.76</b>	<b>336.28</b>	<b>287.60</b>	<b>1,336.73</b>

Highway - Federal	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	4-Yr Totals
TIGER Grant (new)	0.00	1.48	9.68	8.84	20.00
Railway Highway Crossings	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	4.80
Highway Safety Improvement	18.00	18.20	18.50	18.50	73.20
Transportation Alternative	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	13.20
National Highway Performance	128.60	131.40	134.40	134.40	528.80
CMAQ	10.80	10.90	11.10	11.10	43.90
Inflation	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
Planning	6.30	6.30	6.40	6.40	25.40
Surface Transportation Block Grant	61.10	62.20	63.70	63.70	250.70
National Freight	6.60	7.50	8.30	8.30	30.70
TIGER Grant (previous)	0.00	13.10	0.00	0.00	13.10
Other Federal	25.64	25.64	25.64	25.64	102.56
Federal Budgetary Holdback	(6.40)	(6.50)	(6.60)	(6.60)	(26.10)
<b>Total Federal Highway Funding Sources</b>	<b>255.14</b>	<b>274.72</b>	<b>275.62</b>	<b>280.78</b>	<b>1,086.26</b>

Non Highway Revenue	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	4-Yr Totals
NHTSA	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
Green Economy Bond	6.50	2.70	0.00	0.00	9.20
FTA (Fixed Guideway)	0.92	13.14	5.39	5.15	24.60
Ferry Boat Cap	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50
FTA (Section 5307)	0.00	0.50	0.40	0.40	1.20
<b>Total Non-Highway Funding Sources</b>	<b>10.42</b>	<b>19.74</b>	<b>9.29</b>	<b>9.05</b>	<b>48.50</b>
<b>Total RIDOT Funding Sources</b>	<b>590.65</b>	<b>682.22</b>	<b>621.19</b>	<b>577.43</b>	<b>2,471.49</b>

**RIDOT Planned Expenditures**

in millions of dollars • updated 7.18.18

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	4-Yr Totals
6/10 Project	77.00	70.00	92.20	60.36	299.56
Bridge Capital Program	200.75	211.74	174.12	149.35	735.96
Bridge Maintenance	15.23	17.30	16.38	17.40	66.31
Contingency - Inflation	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.50	0.91
Debt Service	69.82	102.72	99.19	106.32	378.04
Drainage Capital Program	1.75	1.20	2.70	5.15	10.80
Drainage Maintenance	7.20	5.40	6.90	5.90	25.40
Headquarters Operations	15.97	17.64	16.67	15.73	66.01
Maintenance Capital Program	5.46	6.12	4.25	4.25	20.08
Maintenance Operations	40.43	44.10	45.79	42.38	172.71
Pass Throughs	8.08	8.09	8.10	8.05	32.32
Pavement Capital Program	47.73	60.43	67.71	61.38	237.25
Pavement Maintenance	7.14	7.16	7.18	7.20	28.68
Planning - Program Development	17.30	15.83	17.30	17.20	67.64
Toll Operations	1.90	2.20	2.20	2.20	8.50
Traffic Maintenance	7.69	7.30	7.25	6.30	28.54
Traffic Safety Capital Program	27.56	20.24	22.28	29.07	99.15
Transit Capital Program - RIDOT	5.90	54.14	15.63	13.02	88.68
Transit Operations - RIDOT	8.23	7.24	7.28	7.31	30.06
Transportation Alternatives	18.92	18.89	5.95	16.50	60.26
<b>Total RIDOT Expenditures</b>	<b>584.07</b>	<b>677.74</b>	<b>619.47</b>	<b>575.56</b>	<b>2,456.84</b>



# Dig Safe safety seminar co-sponsored by CIRI.

February 26 event held in conjunction with National Grid.



A free service funded entirely by its member utility companies, Dig Safe® is a not-for-profit clearinghouse that notifies participating utility companies of contractors' plans to dig underground. On February 26 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, approximately 400 attendees benefitted from a four-hour seminar which covered a number of topics including:

- The potential hazards of utility damage from unsafe excavation
- Laws and rules governing the notification and marking process
- Best practices for working safely around underground facilities
- Pre-marking and marking techniques
- The enforcement process for underground digging violations



*Attendees speaking to Lisa Powers of Dig Safe/M.U.S.T. and Tim Sullivan of National Grid.*

Speakers at this Managing Underground Safety Training (M.U.S.T.) seminar included Lisa Powers, Dig Safe public relations director and regional chair of M.U.S.T., Tim Sullivan, National Grid public awareness liaison for pipeline safety and compliance, Stephen A. Cardi II, CIRI president and Peter Robbins, CIRI safety director.

During the 2018 excavation season, the Dig Safe 811 call center processed 586,132 digging requests over the five-state region it serves (MA, ME, NH, RI & VT) – including 45,624 requests in Rhode Island alone. In 2016, the service added Google street data to its mapping database to further refine the location accuracy of its request tickets.

## Welcome to our new members.

### **RICON Construction**

PO Box 8137  
Cranston, RI 02920

### **S&R Corporation**

706 Broadway Street  
Lowell, MA 01854

### **Shawmut Equipment Company**

20 Tolland Turnpike  
Manchester, CT 06042

### **WSP USA**

2374 Post Road  
Warwick, RI 02886

In November 2018, supported by a travel grant from CIRI, the Roger Williams University teams earned multiple honors at the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region I competitions in Albany, NY. Taking on fast-track assignments that are intensive tests of skills and endurance, the RWU construction management students achieved the following results:

**2nd place in Heavy-Civil.** This project consisted of a bridge replacement with a critically tight schedule for a highly trafficked area. Competition teams had to be familiar with takeoff, pricing, means and methods, and scheduling of major scopes of work which include demolition, concrete and structural steel. Other scopes include utilities, paving and landscaping.

**3rd place in Preconstruction.** This competition called for a detailed written and oral proposal to provide precon services including sections for Schedule, Budget, Logistics, Constructability and Approach to Construction.

**3rd place in Design-Build.** This assignment involved a 30,000 square-foot STEM program expansion for a premier New England boarding school — a multifaceted project including diverse laboratory facilities and common spaces.

## RWU competition teams win big in ASC regional event.

Only school placing in three categories in 2018 competitions



*The winning Heavy-Civil, Preconstruction and Design-Build teams — top to bottom — led by Dr. Amine Ghanem, PhD, RWU Associate Professor of Construction Management.*

## RI Construction Career Days is now a biannual event.

Enables students to learn about the industry firsthand.

As many baby boomers are now reaching retirement, the average age of a worker in the skilled trades is approximately 50 years old and rising. The annual RI Construction Career Days event in the spring has been a valuable outreach initiative, designed to give high school students a sense of the wide array of potential careers in the construction industry.

Beginning in Fall 2019, this event will take place twice a year, in April and October. Joining forces with RIDOT, the RI Building and Construction Trades Council and participating CIRI member companies, CIRI helps to make this two-day event an educational success.

“We want students to know construction is a field they should be looking at,” says Steve Cardi, CIRI

president. “This gives them a look at the diverse talents needed in a typical construction project, including estimating, purchasing, finance and a variety of jobsite related roles. The possibilities are really wide open.”

Over the years, individual RI Construction Career Days events have attracted as many as 1600 students and 35 exhibitors. For more information on the upcoming October 2019 event, educators and potential sponsors/exhibitors should keep an eye on the RIDOT website at [www.dot.ri.gov](http://www.dot.ri.gov).



# 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 2019 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 the proposed bills in the House and Senate the CIRI Legislative Committee has identified as significant to our industry – which warrant active support or opposition by our membership:

## Supporting

<b>Excavation near underground utility facilities</b>	Requires any public utility or its contractor to reimburse an excavator for lost-time expense incurred, including manpower and equipment, from the utilities’ incorrect marking of underground utilities.	H 5692    S 0539
---	---	------------------

## Opposing

<b>RI global warming solutions act</b>	Establishes the Rhode Island global warming solutions act to reduce carbon emissions across various sectors of the local economy.	H 5444
<b>Notice requirements for explosives</b>	Expands the notice requirements relating to the use of explosives by requiring two (2) weeks’ notice of blasting to the municipality and to owners of structures within five hundred feet (500’) of the mutual property line.	H 5642
<b>Subcontractor/DBE payments for state contracts</b>	Helps expedite the payments made to subcontractors for work they perform on state contracts. It would also establish a new process to help minority business enterprises collect for their work on state contracts from their prime contractors.	H 5877
<b>Direct payments to public works</b>	Public works project subcontractors may seek contractors payment directly from awarding authority.	S 0616
<b>Restoration requirements for altered roadways</b>	Requires that any altered roadway be restored to the same or better condition than that which existed prior to the alteration.	H 5392
<b>RIDOT use of steel plates: rules, regulations &amp; requirements</b>	Requires DOT to establish rules, regulations, and minimum requirements for the use of steel plates on roadway surfaces, and for towns and cities to adopt the same for use on municipal highways.	H 5465

# Jobsite/plant visits provide real-world perspective for URI juniors.

CIRI member companies continue annual tradition.

For students engaged in Civil Engineering (CVE), the opportunity to see working operations firsthand is a valuable addition to the curriculum. During the last week of April, University of Rhode Island students had the opportunity to learn about asphalt production and QC/QA from the industry professionals at Cardi Corporation, D'Ambra Construction and J.H. Lynch & Sons.

“These annual visits are an outstanding supplement to our classroom and lab work,” says K. Wayne Lee, P.E., URI Professor III of Civil and Environmental Engineering, who also serves as Director of the Rhode Island Transportation Research Center (RITRC). “The students get to see how the principles they’re learning are applied every day in the real world.”



**Cardi Corporation**



**D'Ambra Construction**



**J.H. Lynch & Sons**

The wide range of topics covered in the CVE 347 classroom and CVE 348 lab courses at URI include transportation planning, economic and highway capacity analyses, Superpave asphalt mix design, pavement performance prediction and pavement management.

# RI truck tolling gantries deliver as projected for first 9 months.

Monthly activity on track for initial two gantries.



When RIDOT activated its first two truck tolling gantries on June 11 of last year, it projected an average of 177,292 trucks would pass through each month — yielding an average of \$598,667 in toll revenue. After 9 months of operation, these gantries are producing an average of 179,790 transactions each month, generating \$595,402 in monthly income.

As a result, one of the more innovative and debated components of the RhodeWorks program is performing as planned. For the first two gantries on I-95 in Exeter and Hopkinton near Route 3, the 9-month total of approximately 1.6 million transactions has delivered nearly \$5.36 million in revenue to the state as of March 10 of this year — just shy of the originally projected revenue of \$5.9 million.

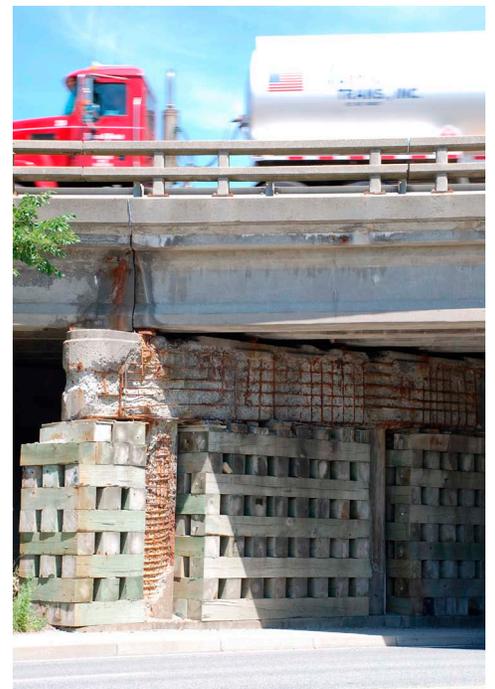
## Next 10 tolling gantries now expected by May 2020.

The construction of the rest of the 14-gantry network planned as part of RhodeWorks has been delayed by federal approvals and toll equipment testing, which were more time-consuming than anticipated. On December 20, RIDOT announced the receipt of federal approval to construct the next 10 gantries for truck tolls. The agency expects to have all 10 of the new gantries in place by May 2020. This set of tolling passthroughs will stretch northward from Warwick, through the highway interchanges of Greater Providence, onward to Woonsocket.

## Trucking industry lawsuit dismissed by federal court.

Matters have also been complicated in recent months by a trucking industry lawsuit in opposition to the RhodeWorks truck tolling program. The American Trucking Associations and the Cumberland Farms convenience store chain joined two other plaintiffs in bringing the suit.

In a 17-page ruling on March 19, Chief Judge William Smith of the Rhode Island U.S. District Court ruled that while the collected fees are dubbed as tolls, they “are really a highly targeted and sophisticated tax designed to fund infrastructure maintenance and improvements that would otherwise need to be paid for by other forms of tax-generated revenue.” He also said the plaintiffs needed to bring their case in state court, as the federal Tax Injunction Act prohibits federal court from hindering the levying of taxes at the state level.



# Safety Week 2019



# CIRI

## Construction Industries of Rhode Island

National Safety Week, which takes place annually the first week in May, has become a key tradition for the construction industry. Again in 2019, CIRI sponsored a corresponding awareness and education effort on the local level to augment the ongoing safety programs of its member companies.

During the weeklong event, CIRI distributed nearly 3,900 commemorative t-shirts bearing the program's mantra, Many Roles, One Goal: Building Safely Together. Participating member companies ranged in size from 10 employees to 500 employees each.

"Our regional program for Safety Week is a valuable opportunity to expand the knowledge of hazards and procedures at the beginning of the work season," says Peter Robbins, director of safety for D'Ambra Construction and chairman of the CIRI Safety/EEO/Training Committee. The level of participation is particularly rewarding, knowing how busy our members' work crews are during the spring."

## Safety awareness/training kicks off active spring season.

CIRI-led effort coincides with National Safety Week.

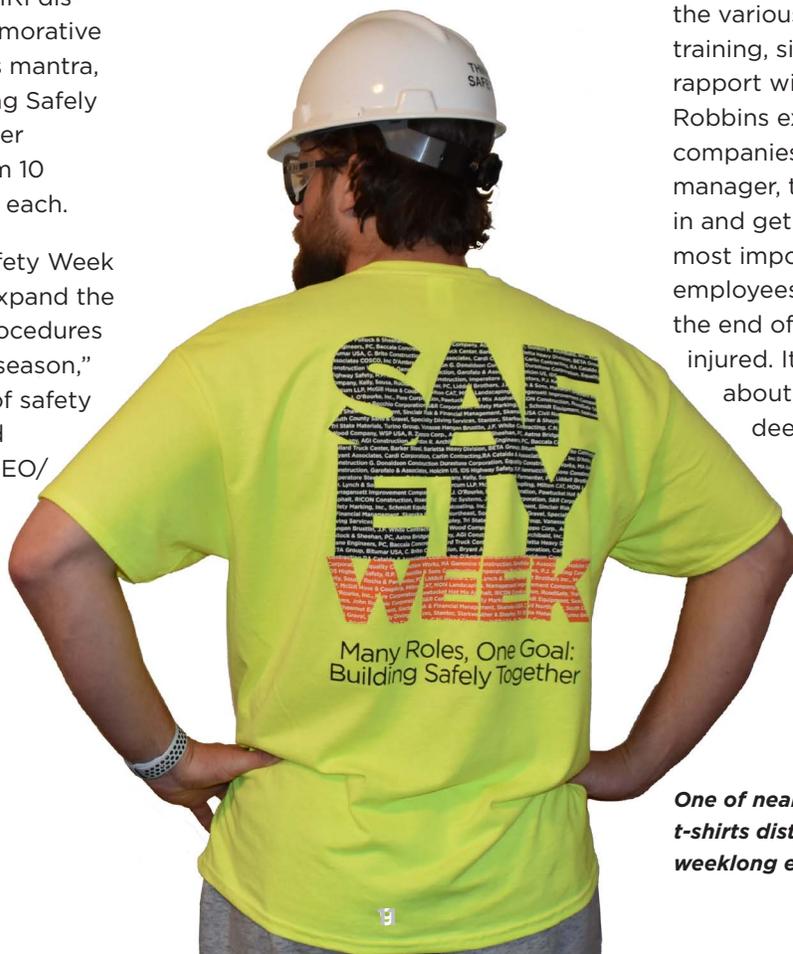
### Leveraging established partnerships and member resources.

In the planning and execution of the initiative, CIRI was assisted by Local 271 of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) and the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA). The training component was conducted via a series of toolbox talks by the participating companies, either at their headquarters or on jobsites. Topics included prevention of falls (the leading cause of construction related injuries), runover and backover prevention, first aid and CPR procedures, and rigging and signal person training.



**Peter Robbins, Director of Safety for D'Ambra Construction and Chairman of the CIRI Safety/EEO/Training Committee.**

"We look to the safety managers at the various companies to do the training, since they already have a rapport with their employees," Robbins explains. "Since some companies don't have a safety manager, the owners actually pitch in and get involved. They believe the most important thing is for their employees to be able to go home at the end of the day without being injured. It's living proof they care about their employees at a deeper level."



**One of nearly 3,900 commemorative t-shirts distributed by CIRI during the weeklong event.**

# The CIRI PAC needs your help.

Contribute today to help safeguard our industry.

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. Often in negative ways.

In addition to our efforts during the intensive General Assembly season, the CIRI Political Action Committee (PAC) advocates throughout the year to protect the interests of our industry and our state. This includes the fall election season, when the CIRI PAC provides financial support to help elect candidates who understand and advocate for our industry and the RI economy.

## **Contributions to our PAC are not only 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.*



## **Are we still missing your email address?**

We're still in need of email addresses for most of the people at our member companies. This is key to helping us serve you better with the latest CIRI news and announcements — including the digital editions of our Rhodework Review. Even if you think we have it already, take a minute to send us your email at:

[exec@ciri.net](mailto:exec@ciri.net)



# CIRI

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)

## **Officers:**

Stephen A. Cardi II, President  
Michael D. D'Ambra, 1st Vice President  
Stephen P. Lynch, Jr., 2nd Vice President  
Dustin J. Everson, Treasurer  
David O. Costantino, Secretary  
Timothy R. Scanlon, Executive Director

## **Board Members:**

Richard Chagnon  
Robert B. DiScuillo, Jr.  
Michael A. Gammino III  
Eric Lundberg

## Save 20% on Safety Apparel & Accessories.

With special CIRI member pricing through SAFETY 1.



Through our preferred vendor, SAFETY 1, CIRI members benefit from substantial savings on hard hats, vests, jackets, gloves and t-shirts. Contact Kerry Sheehan today for more details.

A division of:  
Rum Runner Custom Apparel  
48 Columbia Avenue  
Jamestown, RI 02835

**Kerry Sheehan**  
401.603.6470  
[kerry@safety1.co](mailto:kerry@safety1.co)