

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI**  
**RESOLUTION #2020-xx-xx**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING TRANSFER OF RI TURNPIKE AND BRIDGE AUTHORITY  
(RITBA) REVENUE AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TO THE RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (RIDOT)**

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) collects and uses dedicated revenue to operate and maintain the Mount Hope Bridge, the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge, Route 138 through Jamestown, the Newport Pell Bridge, and the Sakonnet River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, RITBA has been keeping the four largest bridges in the state safe for vehicular travel and maintained in sound condition, e.g., has received honors from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association; and

WHEREAS, in comparison, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) owns and maintains all the state's secondary bridges and in 2019, RI was deemed to have the worst bridges in America by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, i.e., 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 management authority over the four major bridges to RIDOT; and

WHEREAS, RIDOT will likely redirect RITBA revenues from the maintenance of the four bridges towards bridges elsewhere in the state that have not been properly maintained and are in much poorer condition; and

WHEREAS, although the state ranking of its bridges will likely be improved by including RITBA's far better maintained bridges in 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, the Portsmouth Town Council opposes proposed state legislation and budget provisions that would transfer RITBA revenue and management authority to RIDOT; and

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Executive Director and Board of Directors of RITBA, every Rhode Island Municipality, State Senator, State Representative, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer and Secretary of State.

Approved by Town Council action this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

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Kevin M. Aguiar, President  
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk