



Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority
P.O. Box 437 | Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835-0437

Bristol Town Administrator and Town Council
10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809

April 9, 2025

Re: Mount Hope Bridge Maintenance and Rehabilitation

Dear Town Administrator Contente and Members of the Council,

RITBA receives many inquiries about the Mount Hope Bridge and our plans for rehabilitating and maintaining this almost 100-year-old critical component of Rhode Island infrastructure. Many of the inquiries focus on the deck, since the wearing surface continues to deteriorate with age.

With regard to routine maintenance, please be assured that RITBA routinely addresses potholes, which motorists frequently bring to our attention. We had a crew out there yesterday with a pallet of buckets full of patching material. Last week, our crews were out there several days addressing potholes.

In addition to the pothole work done regularly, RITBA is currently bidding a project for this summer which is a short-term solution – a micro-mill, patching of holes, and rubberized asphalt chip seal treatment to help restore rideability. We also have a longer-term solution – replacement of the bridge deck. We are in the RFP process for a design consultant for that project.

We are also moving forward with the dehumidification of the cables and anchorages, a project funded with both federal and RITBA funds. As you know, we did preliminary testing over a period of weeks last spring. The project is going out to bid this week, and we anticipate that construction will start later this year. The intent of this project is to preserve and extend the life of the suspension cables by an additional 50 to 75 years.

RITBA will continue to program projects as necessary to perform steel repairs, painting, and concrete repairs on the Mount Hope. Maintenance and repair work is an on-going process on a bridge designed in the 1920s, and it truly never stops. RITBA is committed to keeping this beautiful bridge in service, and it is important to RITBA that the residents of the Mount Hope host communities of Bristol and Portsmouth know of our rehabilitation and continued maintenance plans.

We are always available to answer any other questions that the Town Council or any Town resident or business may have.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori Caron Silveira". The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

Lori Caron Silveira
Executive Director