



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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20 May 2025

Via email: Elizabeth.correia@dot.ri.gov

Elizabeth Correia
Principal Historic Preservation Specialist
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: RIHPHC Project No. 18729
Finding of Effect
Bristol Corridor – Hope Street/Ferry Road (RI 114)
Bristol, Rhode Island

Dear Ms. Correia:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the Finding of Effect (FOE) and associated information that you provided for the above-referenced project. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) is proposing a project with state and federal funding that will make improvements to portions of Hope Street, Ferry Road, and Metacom Avenue in Bristol.

The RIHPHC has previously concurred with the RIDOT delineation of the project's area of potential effect (APE) and the RIDOT identification of historic resources for this project. The information submitted with the Project Notification that we previously reviewed included 30 Percent Preliminary Design documents for the project. We issued a number of comments and questions based on those design documents in a letter dated 17 February 2025. We understand that the project designs have not changed.

Included in the information submitted with the FOE is a memorandum from BL Companies with the subject [Collins Cove] "Seawall Finish Alternatives." In the memorandum, BL provides information about three potential finish alternatives: stone veneer, concrete formliner, and flat concrete. Regarding stone veneer, the memorandum discusses the possibility of mortar or stones becoming loose over time due to environmental conditions at this specific location. As stated in our February letter, we are also concerned about this potentiality. At this time, based on the information in the memorandum, our preference is for a formliner finish with integral concrete coloring. We also wonder if it would make sense to stain the land-facing walls over the integral color concrete, since those sides will abut the sidewalk.

RIDOT has made a recommendation of Adverse Effect for this project, specifically siting the effect of replacing the Collins Cove Seawall on the Bristol Waterfront Historic District. The RIHPHC concurs with the determination of an adverse effect on the Bristol Waterfront Historic District. Additionally, we are concerned that the addition of drainage swales with gabion baskets

may have an adverse effect on the Ferry Road Historic District. We asked for more information about this component of the design in our February letter, and look forward to further consultation so that we can further consider the potential effects on this district.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions based on this letter, please contact me directly at jeffrey.emidy@preservation.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Emidy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey D. Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer