



Department of Transportation
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Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-222-2450
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April 9, 2026

Mr. Daniel Wall, City Council President
City of Cranston
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

Re: Bridge Group 51C – RI 37 C-4
Cranston, Rhode Island
RIC No. 2023-EH-007E

Request for a Permit from the City of Cranston to Allow Construction Within 25 Feet of the Exterior Boundaries of a Historic Cemetery

Dear Mr. Wall:

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), in cooperation with your municipality, is preparing final design plans for the above-referenced transportation project. In accordance with Section 5(c),(d),(e),(f) of the promulgated *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Registration and Protection of Historic Cemeteries* (adopted May 9, 2012; effective May 31, 2012) under RIGL Title 23, Chapter 18-11, *et seq.*, the RIDOT respectfully **requests the City of Cranston's review and issuance of a permit** to allow the planned construction within 25 feet of the exterior boundaries of the below-referenced historic cemetery. You will note in Section 5 (d) and (e) of these rules and regulations that the permit may be issued either by the Town Building Official or the Town Council.

The Project:

The project has plans for transportation improvements along RI-37 between Natick Avenue and US-1 in Cranston and Warwick including 17 ramp locations and Bridge Nos. 081601, 062301, 061601, 062401, 062501, 063601, 063701, and 063801; RI-2 between Meshanticut Valley Parkway to Howard Avenue; and US-1 between Elmwood Avenue and Airport Connector Road.

Project Description:

The Project includes bridge rehabilitation, replacement and removal, as described below:

- Moderate Rehabilitation of Meshanticut Brook Culvert 6 (Bridge No. 081601) over I-295 off and on ramps;
- Replacement of Oaklawn Avenue Bridge (Bridge No. 062301) over Oaklawn Avenue (RI Route 5);
- Moderate Rehabilitation of Glenhills Drive Bridge (Bridge No. 061601) over Glenhills Drive;
- Replacement of New London Avenue Bridge (Bridge No. 062401) over New London Avenue;
- Removal of Howard Bridge (Bridge No. 062501) over Power Road;
- Replacement of Hillsgrove Eastbound Bridge (Bridge No. 063601) and Hillsgrove Westbound Bridge (063701) over two tracks of Amtrak and;
- Removal of Post Road Bridge (Bridge No. 063801) over Post Road (US-1).

With the removal of Bridge 063801, the Project is reconstructing RI-37 at Post Road interchange as a pair of at-grade signalized intersections which will help manage traffic and improve transit and pedestrian access. Freshwater wetlands east of Post Road within the existing RI-37 at US-1 interchange will be reconnected and restored. With this restoration, stormwater treatment units will be constructed in the newly vacant land east of Post Road.

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The Project will provide a connection to the existing Washington Secondary Bike Path. A separate shared use path will be constructed beginning at the entrance to the Chapel Hill Plaza along the west side of RI-2 and along the south side of Meshanticut Valley Parkway and end at the intersection with Belvedere Drive. From that point an advisory bike lane will be demarcated to provide the connection to the Washington Secondary Bike Path. The advisory bike lane is proposed along Belvedere Drive and then shifts east on Freehold Avenue, north onto Oaklawn Avenue, and east onto Sherman Avenue where it will intersect with the Washington Secondary Bike Path. Both the shared use path and advisory bike lane will include signalized crosswalks.

Additional project work includes mill and overlay along RI-37 from the crossing over Cranston Street to Pontiac Avenue and from the ramp system to/from I-95 to US-1. There will also be resurfacing along US-1 from Elmwood Avenue to Airport Connector Road, on New London Avenue from Meshanticut Valley Parkway to Howard Avenue, and lastly on Oaklawn Avenue from Sherman Avenue to Freehold Avenue. Additionally, sidewalk widening will occur along Meshanticut Valley Parkway from Belvedere Avenue to New London Avenue to accommodate a shared use path.

In addition, Adaptive Signal Control Systems and transit signal priority will be installed along RI-2 between Meshanticut Valley Parkway to Howard Avenue and along US-1 between Elmwood Avenue to Airport Connector Road. These traffic signal upgrades will improve transit reliability and reduce travel times. Further safety and traffic installations in this proposed project includes rubble strips along RI-37, high-friction surface treatment at 17 ramp locations across three interchanges, and enhanced safety detection features including wrong way driving detection and an intersection warning system will be placed along the new at-grade interchange on Post Road.

See enclosed plan sheets for details about the work proposed along RI-37 in the area of the identified historical cemetery.

Historic Cemeteries Identified within the Project Area:

Cemetery Name	Cemetery ID	Description
State Farm Cemetery #1	CR 060	This is the original location of the state institution cemetery that has been buried under Route 37 fill. Measures 335 x 120 ft, with approximately 3,030 burials.

Cemetery Conditions:

State Farm Cemetery #1 exists under Route 37 fill and no visible gravestones or boundary markers remain.

Proposed Work near Cemetery Boundaries:

Work is proposed along Route 37 where it crosses over State Farm Cemetery #1 (CR 060). The roadway work consists of mill and overlay. Curbing, median barriers, and guardrail will be replaced where needed.

RIDOT Determination:

Proposed transportation improvements near the cemetery will be limited to the existing roadway. Guardrail is being replaced where it already exists. No historic cemetery features (memorials, markers and landscaping) of the cemetery will be disturbed or otherwise affected by the proposed transportation construction activities as depicted in the enclosed plans.

This correspondence and the above noted enclosures constitute RIDOT's *application* as required by Section 5(f): (1), (2) of the above referenced rules and regulations.

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Should you agree with the application, kindly provide a signature in the appropriate space below to grant RIDOT a permit from the City of Cranston. RIDOT would appreciate the issuance of this permit **within thirty (30) days** of receipt of this request. Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this request for the subject permit, please me at 401-563-4289; or by email at elizabeth.correia@dot.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Correia
Principal Historic Preservation Specialist
Cultural Resources Unit

Attached documentation/map/plan: ☒ yes ☐ no

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TOWN PERMIT APPROVED

Daniel Wall
City Council President, City of Cranston

Date

APPROVAL COMMENTS

TOWN PERMIT DENIED

Daniel Wall
City Council President, City of Cranston

Date

DENIAL COMMENTS
