

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Lauria, Britto, Euer, Felag, Ujifusa, McKenney, and
DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 07, 2024

Referred To: Senate Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-13 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Transportation"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-13-9. Monthly snapshot reports to be prepared by the department of**
4 **transportation.**

5 (a) As used herein:

6 (1) The term "actions" refers to actions and efforts undertaken on the Washington Bridge,
7 including, but not limited to, repairs, alterations, and replacement of the bridge or any portion
8 thereof.

9 (2) The term "snapshot report" refers to the Washington Bridge snapshot report required
10 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

11 (3) The term "time period covered by the report" refers to the calendar month immediately
12 preceding the filing of the snapshot report.

13 (4) The term "Washington Bridge" refers to a series of three structures which traverse the
14 Seekonk River and connect India Point in the city of Providence to Watchemoket Square in the city
15 of East Providence, and which structures carry highways including Interstate 195, U.S. Route 6,
16 U.S. Route 44, and U.S. Route 1A.

17 (b)(1) The department of transportation (the "department") shall prepare and provide, on a
18 monthly basis, a report which report shall be deemed the "Washington Bridge snapshot report".

1 This snapshot report shall provide the general assembly with the information set forth in this section
2 in order to enable the general assembly to provide effective oversight as well as assistance to the
3 department in addressing the ongoing developments with the Washington Bridge. The obligation
4 of the department to provide the snapshot reports shall be re-examined by July 1, 2025, or expire
5 upon completion of the restoration of the Washington Bridge, as certified by the department,
6 whichever comes first.

7 (2) Within thirty (30) days of the passage of this act, a copy of this snapshot report shall
8 be filed on the first day of each month with:

9 (i) The speaker of the house;

10 (ii) The president of the senate;

11 (iii) The office of the governor;

12 (iv) The chairperson of the house oversight committee; and

13 (v) The chairperson of the senate oversight committee.

14 (3) The snapshot report shall, at a minimum, contain the elements described in subsections
15 (c) and (d) of this section.

16 (c) The snapshot report shall contain the following elements:

17 (1) An updated timeline regarding actions to be undertaken on the Washington Bridge,
18 including, but not limited to, repairs, alterations, or replacement of all or a portion of the structures.

19 (2) A list of consulting firms retained or utilized by the department in regard to those
20 actions.

21 (3) Data on traffic patterns over the bridge for the time period covered by the report,
22 including:

23 (i) Adjustments or alternate routes made to traffic patterns over the bridge or alternative
24 modes of transportation to circumvent passage across the bridge;

25 (ii) Adjustments, alternative routes, or alternative modes of transportation the department
26 anticipates making to these traffic patterns;

27 (iii) The number, location, and time of all accidents, including motor vehicle, pedestrian,
28 cyclists, and construction personnel, on the bridge;

29 (iv) The number, location, and time of all motor vehicle breakdowns on the bridge; and

30 (v) Issues with emergency vehicles, including, but not limited to, access to the bridge by
31 emergency vehicles and delays with emergency vehicles crossing the bridge.

32 (4) Data on traffic delays for the time period covered by the report, including:

33 (i) Average and maximum traffic delay times during the weekday morning rush hours of
34 seven (7:00) AM to ten (10:00) AM, and the afternoon rush hours of three (3:00) PM to six (6:00)

1 PM; and

2 (ii) Average and maximum traffic delay times during the weekends and holidays, and the
3 time of those delays.

4 (5) An overview of costs related to actions on the bridge, including:

5 (i) The projected costs for repairing the bridge and for replacing the bridge, and any
6 combination thereof and for any segments or portions thereof;

7 (ii) The overtime costs submitted to the department for reimbursement from traffic details,
8 police, fire, rescue, school and related costs for the time period covered by the report; and

9 (iii) An overview of the direct effects, as best can be determined, on streets and roads in
10 East Providence and Providence impacted by the bridge, with an emphasis on increased motor
11 vehicle traffic and congestion on those streets and roads, for the time period covered by the report.

12 (6) Any updates pertaining to pending investigations and audits related to the bridge.

13 (7) Responses to questions submitted by the chair of the house oversight committee and
14 the chair of the senate oversight committee within each successive snapshot report.

15 (d) Upon receipt of information reflecting an unexpected change in the anticipated progress
16 in repairing or replacing the Washington Bridge, the department shall transmit the information
17 immediately to the governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house rather than
18 delay until the next snapshot report due date.

19 (e) Each snapshot report shall be made public on the department's website, including on
20 any website maintained by the department to specifically address the actions being taken on the
21 Washington Bridge.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

1 This act would direct the department of transportation to prepare a monthly "Washington
2 Bridge snapshot report." This report would contain information on the progress of repairs and other
3 actions pertaining to the Washington Bridge.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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