

The Agency

Department of Transportation

Agency Operations

The Department of Transportation, under the leadership of a director appointed by the Governor, is responsible for the maintenance and construction of a quality infrastructure which reflects the transportation needs of the citizens of the State. These tasks include supervision of all planning, design, construction and upgrading activities associated with the implementation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The department has three major functional components: Central Management, Management and Budget, and Infrastructure.

Prior to FY 1994, funding was provided through general revenue, dedicated receipts, and federal aid. In FY 1994, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Fund (ISTF) was established to finance all of the Department's personnel, operating, and capital improvement expenditures, as well as highway debt service, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) operating funds and elderly transportation services. State funding for transportation services is provided by earmarking 29 cents of the state per gallon gasoline tax in FY 2006.

The Department of Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 3,000 lane miles of highway and 834 bridges, as well as the inspection of all bridges, both municipal and state, that are greater than 20 feet in length. Other responsibilities include planning, development, and implementation of transit, rail, water, and bicycle/pedestrian transportation projects. Maintenance is funded by the Rhode Island Transportation Fund. Road and bridge capital improvements are financed by federal funds (with an average share of 80 percent), and the remaining share is financed by state bond issues. The Infrastructure Program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration under the authority of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

Agency Objectives

To maintain and provide a safe, efficient, environmentally, aesthetically and culturally sensitive intermodal transportation network that offers a variety of convenient, cost-effective mobility opportunities for people and the movement of goods supporting economic development and improved quality of life.

Statutory History

In 1970, the department assumed the responsibilities of the Department of Public Works, Registry of Motor Vehicles, and Council on Highway Safety. The Director also sits on the boards of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (responsible for the operations of the Mount Hope and Newport Bridges) and the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (the statewide bus system). R.I.G.L. 42-13 establishes the organization and functions of the department. R.I.G.L. 31-36-20 establishes the Intermodal Service Transportation Fund (Rhode Island Transportation Fund). Article 21 of P.L. 1994, Chapter 70 transferred the Registry of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Administration.

The Budget

Department of Transportation

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures by Program				
Central Management	5,411,966	6,828,239	20,520,379	20,783,518
Management and Budget	2,313,750	6,488,410	4,528,352	3,010,397
Infrastructure - Engineering	319,701,204	339,242,813	308,127,346	312,648,060
Infrastructure - Maintenance	42,092,214	42,442,175	37,350,829	40,391,655
Total Expenditures	\$369,519,134	\$395,001,637	\$370,526,906	\$376,833,630
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	94,880,067	106,229,519	96,477,840	104,133,958
Operating Supplies and Expenses	41,684,243	25,807,765	21,467,635	22,333,211
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,813,016	16,767,565	18,501,648	32,289,595
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$138,377,326	\$148,804,849	\$136,447,123	\$158,756,764
Capital Purchases and Equipment	142,243,027	153,897,651	146,477,311	128,326,504
Debt Service	796,479	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	88,102,302	92,299,137	87,602,472	89,750,362
Total Expenditures	\$369,519,134	\$395,001,637	\$370,526,906	\$376,833,630
Expenditures By Funds				
Federal Funds	227,723,125	250,816,104	272,559,520	275,263,422
Restricted Receipts	636,146	451,005	644,560	661,834
Other Funds	141,159,863	143,734,528	97,322,826	100,908,374
	\$369,519,134	\$395,001,637	\$370,526,906	\$376,833,630
FTE Authorization	811.7	809.7	786.7	786.7
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	9.2%	9.3%	9.4%	9.5%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	20.5%	20.6%	20.7%	20.8%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	2.0%	1.9%	1.3%	1.2%

The Program

Department of Transportation Central Management

Program Operations

The program consists of seven functional units:

The Office of the Director is responsible for providing vision, leadership and policy development for the Department of Transportation in order to ensure that the State's public transportation services are safe, efficient, environmentally prudent, and consumer oriented.

The Legal Office is responsible for providing advice and representation and other assistance in relation to program development, property management and acquisition, contract finalization, litigation, and arbitration for the department.

The Office of Human Resources is responsible for administering labor relations, human resource development and training, equal opportunity programs, and payroll and fringe benefits programs.

The Office on Highway Safety, through funding provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), develops and coordinates programs with local, state and federal agencies to reduce highway deaths and injuries, and to promote public awareness of the correlation between highway safety and alcohol and substance abuse through the development and distribution of educational information.

The Office of Communications is the spokesperson for the department handling all media inquiries, speaking engagements, legislative correspondence and special events and managing the department of Transportation website: www.dot.state.ri.us.

The Real Estate Section acquires real estate necessary for highway and other construction projects through appraisals, titles, leases, easements and property relocation assistance.

Internal Audit is responsible for internal controls and independent departmental audits

Program Objective

To maintain a system of centralized program services, which promotes optimum utilization of departmental resources consistent with all federal, state and departmental policies, objectives, and procedures.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-13 governs the Department of Transportation.

The Budget

Department of Transportation Central Management

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	3,822,952	4,003,726	4,384,169	4,684,777
Operating Supplies and Expenses	693,497	1,397,864	1,259,675	1,179,091
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	701,429	756,334	4,857,087	4,890,087
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$5,217,878	\$6,157,924	\$10,500,931	\$10,753,955
Capital Purchases and Equipment	(58,094)	501,314	10,019,448	10,029,563
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	252,182	169,001	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$5,411,966	\$6,828,239	\$20,520,379	\$20,783,518
Expenditures By Funds				
Federal Funds	2,270,101	2,699,951	17,047,980	17,166,840
Other Funds	3,141,865	4,128,288	3,472,399	3,616,678
Total Expenditures	\$5,411,966	\$6,828,239	\$20,520,379	\$20,783,518
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Transportation Management and Budget

Program Operations

The Management and Budget Program consists of seven functional units:

The Office of Contracts and Specifications develops and monitors all preliminary engineering and construction contracts, and negotiates consultant engineering fees and staff hours for engineering projects. Management Information Services (MIS) is responsible for the automated telephone system and computer related services which includes network communication, custom programming, software installation, computer purchases, inventory maintenance, on-line help desk, Geographic Informational Systems (GIS) data integration/mapping and the management of consultants developing custom applications. Financial Management is responsible for the preparation and processing of all fiscal materials. The Assistant Director serves as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with oversight over all financial transactions. The Office is charged with developing overall agency policies, guidelines, and procedures for budget administration, financial reporting, and financial management systems. Fleet Operations is responsible for development and enhancement of the department's vehicle fleet. Specific functions include continual monitoring and review of vehicle maintenance costs and records for improved vehicle history and analysis, and vehicle maintenance and inspections. Other functions include the supervision of the Vehicle & Safety Program. The Office of Business and Community Resources is charged with overseeing the department's role in all Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs, which includes supportive services, On-The-Job Training (OJT), the Transportation and Civil Engineering program (TRAC), and other educational, training, and outreach programs targeted to underrepresented groups in the Rhode Island Transportation Industry. External Audit performs routine and special audits as required in such areas as consultant fringe benefits, overhead rates, and final payments. The Federal Programs Section is chiefly responsible for managing all federally reimbursable costs attributed to the Highway Program and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It also administers the annual Federal Highway Program as it relates to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Program Objective

To provide the necessary support staff and systems needed to ensure efficient program services.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-13 governs the Department of Transportation which outlines its responsibilities and organization. Rhode Island General Laws Title 37 Chapters 5, 12, 12.1, 13 and 13.1 define state rules on contractors.

The Budget

Department of Transportation Management and Budget

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	2,093,724	2,318,636	3,507,747	2,527,502
Operating Supplies and Expenses	556,203	1,241,626	829,863	292,152
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$2,649,927	\$3,560,262	\$4,337,610	\$2,819,654
Capital Purchases and Equipment	(336,177)	2,928,148	190,742	190,743
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$2,313,750	\$6,488,410	\$4,528,352	\$3,010,397
Expenditures By Funds				
Other Funds	2,313,750	6,488,410	4,528,352	3,010,397
Total Expenditures	\$2,313,750	\$6,488,410	\$4,528,352	\$3,010,397
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Transportation Infrastructure Engineering

Program Operations

Infrastructure Engineering is headed by the Transportation Development Division through the Office of the Chief Engineer and consists of Construction Management, Design, Traffic Management, Environmental and Intermodal Planning, and Capital Programming. Transportation Development is responsible for the development of projects, from initial scoping through construction and is charged with the complete design of capital projects undertaken by the Department. The Construction Management Section includes the Materials and Survey Units and is responsible for overseeing the statewide highway reconstruction and bridge rehabilitation/replacement program totaling over \$100 million. The Materials Unit is responsible for testing and verifying that construction materials are in compliance with established standards. The Central Surveying functions include construction layout and the dissemination of survey information. The Engineering Section or Design is responsible for maintaining a comprehensive transportation program, as well as environmental assessments and other preliminary engineering required for receipt of federal funds for the construction and reconstruction of Rhode Island's state-owned and maintained highways, bridges, intersections, and bicycle and pedestrian paths. Traffic Management is responsible for managing the department's database and information management systems as they relate to traffic research. The Environmental and Intermodal Planning Unit is charged with developing an integrated transportation system that provides convenient transition between mode shifts through the development and implementation of planning projects in the areas of rail, water, bicycle/pedestrian transportation, and transit. The unit is also responsible for strengthening the department's compliance efforts with respect to environmental issues. The Capital Programming Unit develops and monitors the Capital Transportation Program to meet the transportation needs of the State's citizens and ensure successful implementation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Program Objectives

To develop Rhode Island's roads and bridges into an advanced, state-of-the-art ground transportation system. To maintain and improve public safety, convenience, mobility, and service.

To promote a balanced Intermodal Transportation System through the use of buses, cars and van pooling, light/freight/commuter rail, and water transportation.

To develop an Intelligent Vehicle Highway Reporting System to provide a more efficient highway program that will conform to the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-13 establishes the Maintenance and Public Works Division and defines its role. R.I.G.L. 24-8 defines the duties of the department regarding the construction and maintenance of state roads. Title 37 Chapters 6.1, 6.2, and 7 defines state rules on land acquisition and property management.

The Budget

Department of Transportation Infrastructure Engineering

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	73,061,317	83,070,642	70,363,100	77,027,294
Operating Supplies and Expenses	15,969,898	3,302,537	2,284,162	2,285,938
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,050,221	15,779,462	13,238,830	27,299,508
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$90,081,436	\$102,152,641	\$85,886,092	\$106,612,740
Capital Purchases and Equipment	142,092,115	145,580,606	135,238,782	116,884,958
Debt Service	253,293	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	87,274,360	91,509,566	87,002,472	89,150,362
Total Expenditures	\$319,701,204	\$339,242,813	\$308,127,346	\$312,648,060
Expenditures By Funds				
Federal Funds	225,453,024	248,116,153	255,511,540	258,096,582
Restricted Receipts	636,146	451,005	644,560	661,834
Other Funds	93,612,034	90,675,655	51,971,246	53,889,644
Total Expenditures	\$319,701,204	\$339,242,813	\$308,127,346	\$312,648,060
Program Measures				
Vehicle Crash Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled	1.04	1.01	1.00	1.00
Linear Feet of State Sidewalk Retrofitted to Conform to Americans with Disabilities Act Regulations	110,400	127,600	110,000	110,000
Vehicle Crash Injuries per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled	19.13	16.51	15.00	15.00
Percentage of State Roadways and Sidewalks Swept Annually	80%	85%	90%	90%
Percentage of State Roadway Miles Whose Pavement is Rated Good or Excellent	65%	60%	55%	50%
Number of Rhode Island Bridges Listed as Structurally Deficient	197	194	200	180

The Program

Department of Transportation Infrastructure Maintenance

Program Operations

The Division of Maintenance is responsible for the routine maintenance of approximately 3,000 lane miles of state highways, 834 bridges, and associated roadsides and highway appurtenances. The Highway and Bridge Maintenance Section is comprised of several units that address the various aspects of the highway system. The units include Administration, Automotive, Business Office, Employee Relations Office, Engineering and Support, and Field Operations. Administration is responsible for supervision, planning, and administration for the section. The Automotive section is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the section's fleet of heavy trucks and other equipment. The Business Office administers purchasing, invoicing, and payroll activities and coordinates with contract administration to ensure proper recording of subcontractor documentation. The Employee Relations Office is responsible for all personnel matters of the Highway and Bridge Maintenance Section including, but not limited to, labor relations, Workers' Compensation, and training. The Engineering and Support Office is multi-faceted and is responsible for the following: review and resolution of drainage problems, issuance and inspection of work permits, contract preparation, maintenance of guardrails, fences, and highway attenuators along the state highway, maintenance of highway appurtenances including signs, traffic signals, and highway illumination, processing of pothole, state fleet and other tort claims, and state-wide beautification projects. Field Operations is comprised of a field staff which operates from satellite facilities state-wide and is involved with sweeping, litter collection, snow plowing, and bridge, pothole, guardrail repairs, and other roadway maintenance tasks.

Program Objectives

To provide for the safe, comfortable, aesthetically pleasing, and efficient movement of people and commerce along the State's highway system. Our objective is met by providing a well-maintained system of highways with their associated pavements, drainage systems, roadsides, bridges, and traffic-related appurtenances.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 42-13 establishes the Maintenance and Public Works Division and defines their roles. R.I.G.L. 24-8 defines the duties of the department regarding the maintenance of state roads. R.I.G.L. 24-9 establishes an emergency storm account and authorizes the Director to take the action necessary to respond to emergency situations.

The Budget

Department of Transportation Infrastructure Maintenance

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	15,902,074	16,836,515	18,222,824	19,894,385
Operating Supplies and Expenses	24,464,645	19,865,738	17,093,935	18,576,030
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	61,366	231,769	405,731	100,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$40,428,085	\$36,934,022	\$35,722,490	\$38,570,415
Capital Purchases and Equipment	545,183	4,887,583	1,028,339	1,221,240
Debt Service	543,186	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	575,760	620,570	600,000	600,000
Total Expenditures	\$42,092,214	\$42,442,175	\$37,350,829	\$40,391,655
Expenditures By Funds				
Other Funds	42,092,214	42,442,175	37,350,829	40,391,655
Total Expenditures	\$42,092,214	\$42,442,175	\$37,350,829	\$40,391,655
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

