



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

December 30, 2024

Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Alisa Richardson, Administrator, Environmental Division
360 Lincoln Avenue
Warwick, RI 02888

Freshwater Wetlands Permit

Re: Application No. 24-0228 and RIPDES No. RIR102717 in reference to the property and proposed project located:

Along Interstate Route 295 (I-295) at the Bald Hill Road (RI-2) crossing and approximately 2,000 feet northwest and approximately 1,850 feet southeast of that crossing, SHL Plat No. 1404, Warwick, RI and SHL Plat Nos. 247, 1404, 1424, 1429, and 1444, West Warwick, RI.

Dear Ms. Richardson:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Application for a Freshwater Wetlands Permit** as described in Rule 3.11 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act, 250-RICR-150-15-3 ("Rules"). This review included a site inspection of the above referenced property ("subject property") and an evaluation of the proposed full replacement of four (4) bridges and the rehabilitation of two (2) bridges along I-295, the installation of new guardrails, roadway resurfacing, and stormwater best management practices along the I-295 mainlines and underpass roadways, and the installation of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) system, enhancement of signing and striping along roadway approaches, and construction of new fully accessible parking lots in areas adjacent to the Washington Secondary Bike Path with soil disturbance, grading and associated work as illustrated and detailed on site plans submitted with your application. These site plans were received by the DEM on September 12, 2024.

Our observations of the subject property, review of the site plans and evaluation of the proposed project reveals that alterations of jurisdictional areas are proposed. However, pursuant to Rule 3.7.3B of the Rules, this project meets the Variance Criteria for Public and Governmental Bodies, and a **Freshwater Wetlands Permit** may be issued under the following terms and conditions:

Terms and Conditions for Wetlands Application No. 24-0228; and RIPDES No. RIR102717:

1. This letter is the DEM's permit for this project under the R.I. Fresh Water Wetlands Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-1-18 et seq.
2. This determination also includes your final authorization to discharge storm water associated with construction activity under the **2020 RIDPES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge During Construction Activity ("CGP")**. For future references and inquiry, your permit authorization number is **RIPDES No. RIR102717**. This RIPDES CGP permit is not transferable

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to any person except after written notice to the Director, in the form of a Permit Transfer Form available on the RIDEM Stormwater Construction Permitting website.

3. This permit is specifically limited to the project, site alterations and limits of disturbance (LOD) as detailed on the site plans submitted with your application and received by the DEM on September 12, 2024. A copy of the site plans stamped approved by the DEM is enclosed. Changes or revisions to the project that would alter freshwater wetlands are not authorized without a permit from the DEM. Please note that the LOD does not fully enclose the proposed work on the decking of the existing Bridge Nos. 72101 and 72121 on General Plan No. 2 and Drainage and Utility Plan. No.2. The LOD is considered to connect to the existing bridge structures in these locations. Appropriate best management measures to protect the Pawtuxet River from debris and pollution must be incorporated during all construction activities during bridge rehabilitation.
4. Where the terms and conditions of the permit conflict with the approved site plans, these terms and conditions shall be deemed to supersede the site plans.
5. You must notify this Program in writing of the anticipated start date, and of your contractor's contact information, by submitting the Notice of Start of Construction Form prior to commencement of any permitted site alterations or construction activity. You must also notify this Program in writing upon completion of the project. The Start of Construction Form can be found on the webpage: dem.ri.gov/stormwaterconstruction.
6. A copy of the stamped approved site plans and a copy of this permit must be kept at the site at all times during site preparation, construction, and final stabilization. Copies of this permit and the stamped approved plans must be made available for review by any DEM or city or town representative upon request.
7. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires five (5) years from the date of this letter unless renewed pursuant to the Rules.
8. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any jurisdictional area.
9. Prior to commencement of site alterations, you shall erect or post a sign resistant to the weather and at least twelve (12) inches wide and eighteen (18) inches long, which boldly identifies the initials "DEM" and the application number of this permit. This sign must be maintained at the site in a conspicuous location until such time that the project is complete.
10. Both the owner and the contractor retained to undertake the construction activity are required to comply with all terms and conditions of the CGP. This includes maintaining the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) Plan, performing the required inspections and maintenance of the selected Best Management Practices (BMPs), and retaining inspection records. Further information on the requirements of the CGP is available at:
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/ripdes/pdfs/cgp092620.pdf>.
11. Temporary erosion and sediment controls detailed or described on the approved site plans shall be properly installed at the site prior to or commensurate with site alterations. Such controls shall be properly maintained, replaced, supplemented, or modified as necessary throughout the life of this project to minimize soil erosion and to prevent sediment from being deposited in any freshwater

wetland, buffer, floodplain, area subject to storm flowage, or other jurisdictional areas not subject to disturbance under this permit.

12. Upon permanent stabilization of all disturbed soils, temporary erosion and/or sediment controls must be removed.
13. You are responsible for the proper installation, operation, maintenance and stability of any mitigative features, stormwater treatment facilities, and systems of treatment and control that are installed or used in compliance with this permit to prevent harm to adjacent freshwater wetland, buffer or floodplain, area subject to storm flowage, or other jurisdictional areas until documentation is provided that this responsibility has been assigned to another entity. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be strictly followed. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be that entitled: "Long-Term Operation & Maintenance Plan for the proposed improvements to be constructed under Bridge Group 08-I-295 WAR, WST, PTS ID: 2607F Interstate Route 295 Warwick and West Warwick, Rhode Island" submitted in September 2024, by GM2 Associates, Inc. located at 200 Main Street Pawtucket, RI 02860.
14. You are obligated to install, utilize, and follow all best management practices detailed or described on the approved site plans in the construction of the project to minimize or prevent adverse impacts to any adjacent freshwater wetland, buffer or floodplain, area subject to storm flowage or other jurisdictional areas and the functions and values provided by such freshwater wetlands, buffer or floodplain, or jurisdictional areas.
15. All construction activities involving soil disturbances within watercourses must be limited to the low flow period (i.e., the period from July 1 to October 31 of any calendar year). Soil disturbance in these watercourses must temporarily cease in the event of any abnormally high stormwater runoff event during the low flow period.
16. You must provide written certification from a registered land surveyor or registered professional engineer that the stormwater drainage system including any and all basins, piping systems, catch basins, culverts, swales and any other stormwater management control features have been constructed/installed in accordance with the site plans approved by this permit. This written certification must be submitted to this Program within twenty (20) days of its request or upon completion of the project.
17. No trees are to be removed for access to the Pawtuxet River for rehabilitation work on Bridge Nos. 072101 and 072121. Any cleared understory must be allowed to revegetate naturally.

Pursuant to the provisions in 250-RICR-150-15-3.8.13 and 250-RICR-150-15-3.14.4(A), as applicable, any properly recorded and valid Freshwater Wetlands Permit is automatically transferred to the new owner upon sale of the property.

Please be aware that the RIDEM's Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Various Fees (250-RICR-30-00-1) require that RIPDES CGP permit holders to pay an Annual Fee of \$100.00. An invoice will be sent to the owner on record in May/June of each year if the construction was still active as of December 31st of the previous year. The owner will be responsible for the Annual Fee until the construction activity has been completed, the site has been properly stabilized, and a completed Notice of Termination (NOT) has been received by the RIPDES Program.

You are required to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and to carry out this project in compliance with the Rules at all times. Failure to do so may result in an enforcement action by this Department.

In permitting the proposed alterations, the DEM assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from faulty design or construction.

Kindly be advised that this permit is not equivalent to a verification of the type or extent of freshwater wetlands on site. Should you wish to have the types and extent of freshwater wetlands verified, you may submit the appropriate application in accordance with 250-RICR-150-15-3.9.3.

This permit does not remove your obligation to obtain any local, state, or federal approvals or permits required by ordinance or law and does not relieve you from any duties owed to adjacent landowners with specific reference to any changes in drainage.

Please contact Jessica Lord of this office (telephone: 401-537-4249) should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Freeman, Environmental Scientist III
Office of Water Resources
Freshwater Wetlands Program
NLF/JAL/jal

Enclosure: Approved site plans

cc: Neal Personeus, DEM Stormwater Program
Kevin Nagle, P.E., GM2 Associates, Inc.
Heather Hamilton, RIDOT
Robert Assalone, Building Official, Town of West Warwick
Alfred T. DeCorte, Director and Building Official, City of Warwick