



PANDEMIC RECOVERY OFFICE

Safety Barriers Study Final Report

Submitted by State of Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office

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This project was supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP0136 awarded to the State of Rhode Island by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Safety Barriers Study

Project Identification Number: 10019

Pandemic Recovery Office Approval Date: August 10, 2022

Project Completion Date: May 9, 2025

Funded Amount: \$1,750,000

Expended Amount: \$1,569,414

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Revenue Replacement: Provision of Government Services

Project Overview: Between January 2018 and June 2022, there were 23 known suicides from the four bridges maintained by the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) – the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge, Mount Hope Bridge, Claiborne Pell (Newport) Bridge, and Sakonnet River Bridge. Existing tools to prevent such loss of life include cameras and signs with contact information for the Samaritans and the Bristol Health Equity Zone for individuals to use in times of crisis.

RITBA retained a consultant, Atkins North America Inc., to develop detailed reports on what, if any, safety barrier measures are possible for use on the four bridges. The studies, which included high-level cost estimates for each measure and the potential impact of ongoing maintenance and inspections, provided RITBA with a basis for informed decision-making. The first report on the Jamestown Verrazzano and Mount Hope bridges was released in May 2024, and the second report on the Claiborne Pell (Newport) and Sakonnet River bridges was released in January 2025. The reports and their findings are available on RITBA's [website](#)¹.

¹ [Financial Reports - Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority](#). The reports are under the “Other” section of the webpage.

Financial Overview: All program payments can be found on the [Pandemic Recovery Office's website](#) by filtering the "Project" box for "Safety Barriers Study." The project did not utilize its full appropriation of \$1.75 million with \$180,586 of unexpended funds remaining at the conclusion of the project. These funds are available for reclassification to other eligible SFRF projects. The table below shows planned expenditures by fiscal quarter and actual expenditures by fiscal quarter:

Fiscal Year Quarter	Planned Expenditures	Actual Expenditures
FY 2023 Q2	\$500	\$14,744
FY 2023 Q3	\$30,509	\$120,064
FY 2023 Q4	\$103,731	\$59,490
FY 2024 Q1	\$327,629	\$265,622
FY 2024 Q2	\$373,317	\$92,417
FY 2024 Q3	\$433,445	\$433,920
FY 2024 Q4	\$266,409	\$161,757
FY 2025 Q1	\$156,257	\$164,733
FY 2025 Q2	\$58,203	\$256,667
Total	\$1,750,000	\$1,569,414
<i>Note:</i> A single audit fee applies to all State Fiscal Recovery Fund projects and accounts for \$525 of the \$1,750,000 of planned expenditures and \$471 of the \$1,569,414 of actual expenditures in the above table.		

Key Performance Indicators: The following are the key performance indicators based on quarterly goals and monthly data collections.

Legend:

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Actual KPI Value Reported

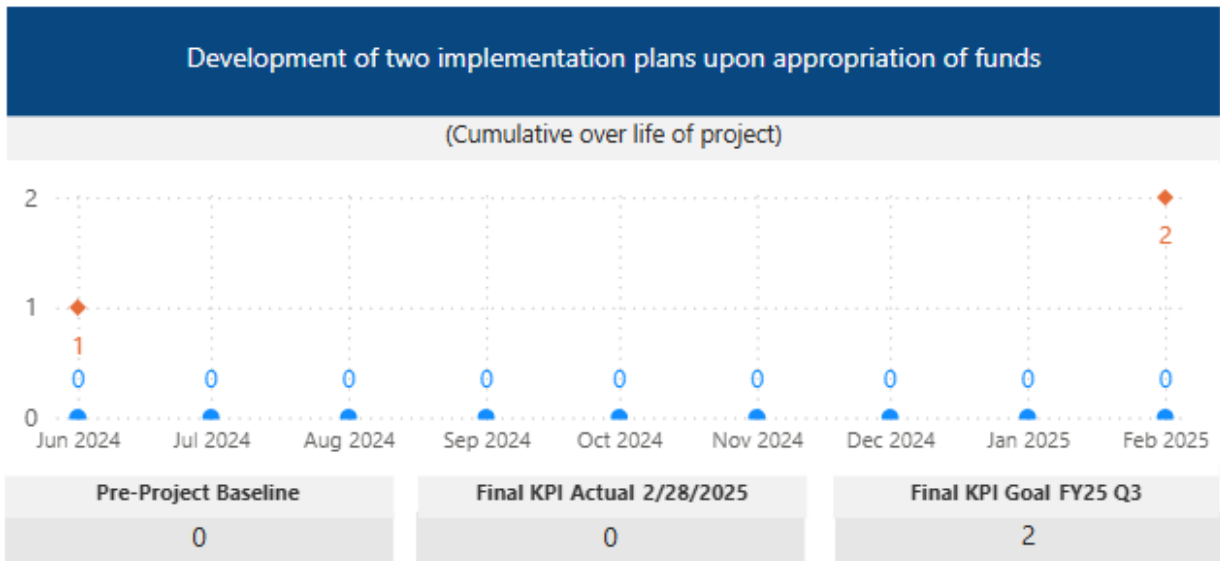
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Quarterly Goals

1. Issuance of two studies by external engineering firm conducting the study



2. Development of two implementation plans upon appropriation of funds²



² As of the conclusion of the project, the State had not appropriated funds for the implementation of any measures specified in the reports.

Auxiliary Information: The maps below show the locations of the four bridges that were the focus of the *Safety Barriers Study*.



