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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Department of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-222-2450
Fax 401-222-3905

June 9, 2016

Ms. Luly Massaro
RI Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Ms. Massaro,

Enclosed please find one (1) original and nine (9) copies of our application for Approval of Tariff to be charged in RIDOT-Sponsored Ferry Transportation between Providence and Newport. Should you have any questions please contact Julie Oakley, Supervising Planner, in my office at 401-222-4203 x4919 or julie.oakley@dot.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Devine
Acting Administrator, Office of Transit
Rhode Island Department of Transportation

cc: J. Oakley (RIDOT), J. Bevins (SeaStreak), C. WilsonFrias (PUC), file with attachments

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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In Re: SeaStreak, LLC

**APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF TARRIFF TO BE
CHARGED IN RIDOT-SPONSORED FERRY TRANSPORTATION
BETWEEN PROVIDENCE AND NEWPORT**

**EXPEDITED HEARING REQUESTED
TO ALLOW JULY 1, 2016 STARTING DATE**

Pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-3-10 and 39-3-11, SeaStreak, LLC (“SeaStreak”) submits this application for approval of its rates for ferry transportation connecting the termini of Providence and Newport. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (“RIDOT”), as the sponsor of the ferry service, joins this application.

In support of this application, SeaStreak and RIDOT state the following:

1. The State of Rhode Island is the recipient of grant funds under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (“CMAQ”) Program administered by the United States Department of Transportation.
2. RIDOT has received CMAQ funding for the primary purpose of linking centralized marine transportation services together with ground transportation options located in Providence and Newport.
3. From June 2000 through 2008, RIPTA sponsored the operation of ferry transportation between Providence and Newport. During that time period, the ferry service often transported 30,000 - 40,000 passengers during the peak summer months of June through early September. Using an estimate of two passengers per vehicle, at those passenger counts the service would have the effect of removing 15,000 to 20,000 vehicles from Rhode Island roadways, which would result in a significant reduction in vehicle emissions.
4. In April of 2016, RIDOT issued a request for proposals for the furnishing of seasonal ferry service between Providence and Newport. That request for proposals was

amended and reissued in May of 2016. SeaStreak submitted a bid proposal. RIDOT carefully reviewed the bid proposal and recommended the awarding of the contract to SeaStreak.

5. SeasStreak and RIDOT are in the process of negotiating a contract for the operation of seasonal ferry service between Providence and Newport. That contract will be for a one (1) shortened pilot season period (July 1, 2016 through September 5, 2016) with two (2) annual options that could extend the total term to three (3) years depending on the availability of funding. The parties expect to come to terms within the next ten (10) days.

6. RIDOT has a \$500,000 CMAQ grant to support seasonal summer transportation endeavors, of which ferry is included, during the 2016 season. RIDOT and SeaStreak are committed to make commercially reasonable efforts to obtain additional funding for the ferry transportation beyond the initial first season.

7. RIDOT and SeaStreak negotiated a fair passenger tariff to raise revenue to support the seasonal ferry transportation between July and September. A copy of the schedule and fares is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

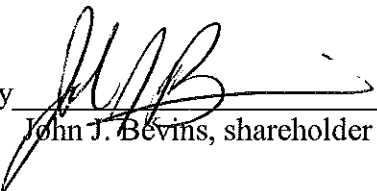
8. SeaStreak, through its parent company previously known as New England Fast Ferry Company, LLC, constructed a RIPTA-Class Catamaran – a high speed luxury ferry capable of carrying up to 149 passengers at a speed of up to 30 knots. This vessel, appropriately named “M/V Ocean State,” was used to operate ferry service for RIPTA from 2003 through 2008. Its transit time from Providence to Newport is approximately 45 minutes.

9. SeaStreak submitted an application to The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers dated June 3, 2016, seeking an operating license/certificate to operate service between Providence and Newport. While the hearing date has not yet been set, it is expected to occur during the week of June 20, 2016. If The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers has not issued its certificate before the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) rules on this application, we ask that the PUC issue a conditional approval subject to the issuance of the Division’s certificate.

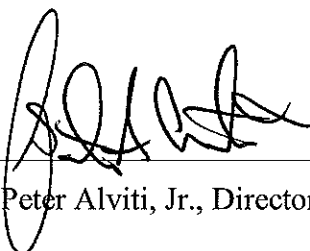
10. SeaStreak and RIDOT intend to commence the seasonal ferry service this year on July 1, 2016. Accordingly, pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-3-12, they respectfully request that the PUC hold an expedited hearing on this application. SeaStreak and RIDOT represent that the proposed ferry service is not a lifeline service, nor does it serve an isolated population, and that the facts and circumstances surrounding this request constitute good cause for an expedited hearing.

WHEREFORE, SeaStreak and RIDOT request that the PUC approve the submitted tariff for the proposed ferry transportation between Providence and Newport.

SeaStreak, LLC

By  _____
John J. Bevins, shareholder and Vice President
and

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

By  _____
Peter Alviti, Jr., Director

SCHEDULE

July 1, 2016 – September 5, 2016

Weekday Schedule (Mon. – Thurs.)

Providence Departures

10:00 am
12:30 pm
6:00 pm

Newport Departures

11:15 am
1:45 pm
7:15 pm

Weekends (Fri. – Sun.)/Holidays

Providence Departures

10:00 am
12:30 pm
5:00 pm
9:45 pm

Newport Departures

11:15 am
1:45 pm
6:15 pm
11:00 pm

FARES

	One Way	Round Trip
Adult	\$10.00	\$20.00
Disabled	\$5.00	\$10.00
Senior Citizens (65 and over)	\$5.00	\$10.00
Children (12 and under)	\$5.00	\$10.00