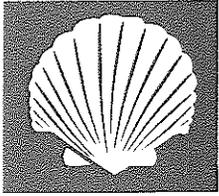


SOUTH
COUNTY



TOURISM
COUNCIL

RECEIVED

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 14, 2013

Public Utilities Commission
Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Dear Members of the Public Utilities Commission:

Charlestown

The goal of the South County Tourism Council is to successfully grow the tourism industry for all of South County.

Coventry

East Greenwich

Exeter

Hopkinton

The Council believes that all forms of alternative modes of transportation are crucial to the consumers' enjoyment of this pristine 449 square mile tourism region. The Council is and has been, keenly aware that there will be no more 'taking' of land for the creation of new roads within the South County Region. To that end, we have long advocated that all alternative modes of transportation be developed to ease the burden on an overtly stressed highway/byway system.

Narragansett

North Kingstown

Richmond

South Kingstown

The cardinal rule to consumer enjoyment of a tourism destination, first and foremost is: Travel must not be a burden! Sitting for prolonged periods of time in traffic is that very burden. As we all know, there are more than 20 public beaches within the 100 miles of South County coastline, they are some of the finest drivers of tourism to the region.

West Greenwich

Westerly

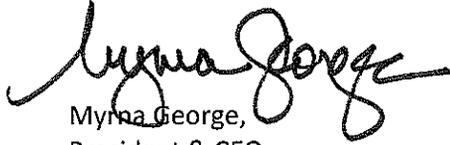
Major intersections at Route 4, Route 102, Route 108, Route 1, Tower Hill Road, and Route 1A all suffer heart attack congestion within these arteries during the high season – particularly, during major events being held in adjoining communities i.e., Soccer Tournaments, Art Shows, Air Shows, Balloon Festivals, to name a few. The resulting traffic gridlock – can and has lasted up to two hours. There have been occasions when people attempting to reach Escape Road in Narragansett travelling from nearby East Greenwich, found travel impossible due to backed up congestion at Route 4 and Route 102, that there was simply no way around.

The convenient access provided by Route 403 adjacent to Route 4 is clearly underutilized. The Council supports all intermodal connections between the ferry,RIPTA bus service, commuter rail service at Wickford Junction and Kingston Train Station, TF Green Airport, as well as our bike paths.

For Tourism to be truly successful in any community, ease of getting where you want to go must be priority number one, for both visitors and residents.

As you consider the application submitted to you on July 2, 2013 by Charles Donadio, Jr., proprietor of Rhode Island Fast Ferry, Inc., requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to operate a fast ferry between Quonset Point, North Kingstown, and Old Harbor, Block Island, pursuant to RIGL 39-3, the Council offers this information to you, for your deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myrna George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Myrna George,
President & CEO