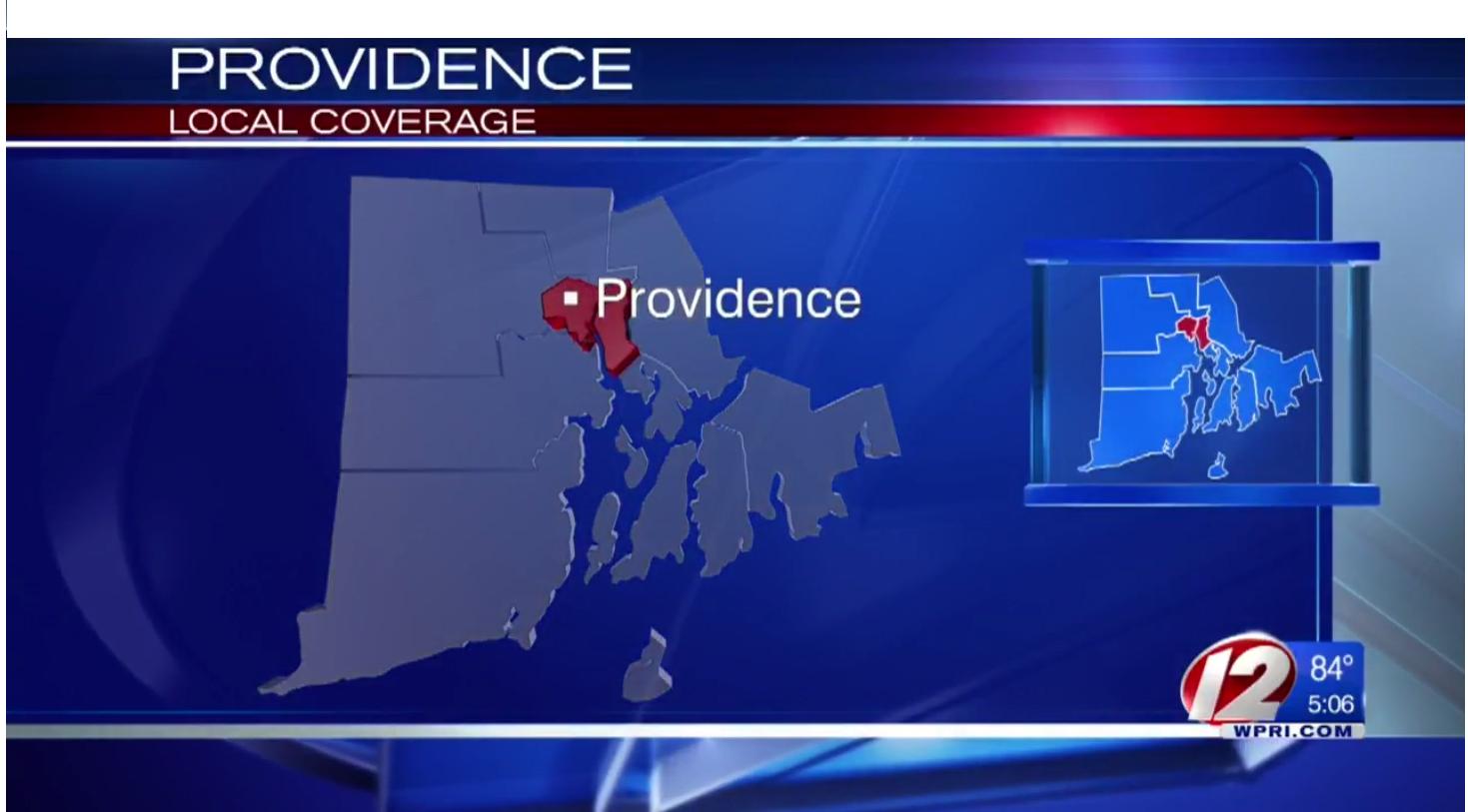


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PROVIDENCE

## \$22M Providence Pedestrian Bridge is officially open; supporters say it's worth every penny



by: Miles Montgomery, Brandon Truitt

Posted: Aug 9, 2019 / 08:13 AM EDT / Updated: Aug 9, 2019 / 05:44 PM EDT

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRI) – After nearly three years in the making, a grand opening ceremony Friday morning marked the opening of the new Providence River Pedestrian Bridge.

The new

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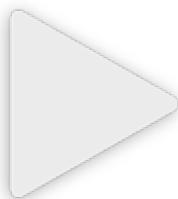
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When conceived in the mid-1990s, it was originally slated to be a simple bridge with a cost of \$2 million. Fast forward more than two decades, and the final cost was \$22 million.

## VIDEO NOW: Sky Drone 12 Over New Providence Pedestrian Bridge



Several restaurants, apartments, and stores have been built near the bridge since the project began in 2016. Last month, the [Wexford Innovation Center](#) officially opened its doors downtown close to the pedestrian bridge. Community developers believe the bridge is well worth the investment and could help attract more visitors, residents and potential businesses in the future.

“While today marks the end of its planning and construction chapters it also marks the beginning of its new chapters,” said RIDOT Director Peter Alviti. “As it functions to provide a connection between the east side and the west side of the river and a public space that doesn’t just bridge the two sides of a river but a beautiful space that will provide a magnificent view of our beautiful city for countless years to countless people.”



**Kim Kalunian**  
@KimKalunian

Here's a map of the former 195 land. Colors denote which parcels are complete, in progress, under contract or available. Green parcels are public parks.

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The new pedestrian bridge was built on the pillars of the former I-195 highway. The former stretch of highway was demolished after the Iway Bridge carrying I-195 was completed – opening up more than two dozen acres of land for redevelopment.



**Brandon Truitt**

@BrandonTruittTV

It's Opening: After almost 3 years, the nearly \$22 million Providence River pedestrian bridge will open this morning. Hear why some say it's worth every penny on [@wpri12](#).



91 4:56 AM - Aug 9, 2019 · Providence, RI

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Several city and state leaders are scheduled attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony including Gov. Gina Raimondo and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza.

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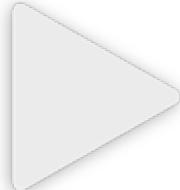
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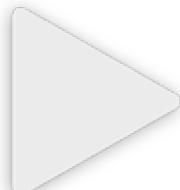


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PROVIDED BY THE CONNECTICUT BRIDGE COMMISSION



## VIDEO NOW: News Chopper 12 Video of Old 195 Bridge



*Eyewitness News reporter Brandon Truitt contributed to this report.*

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