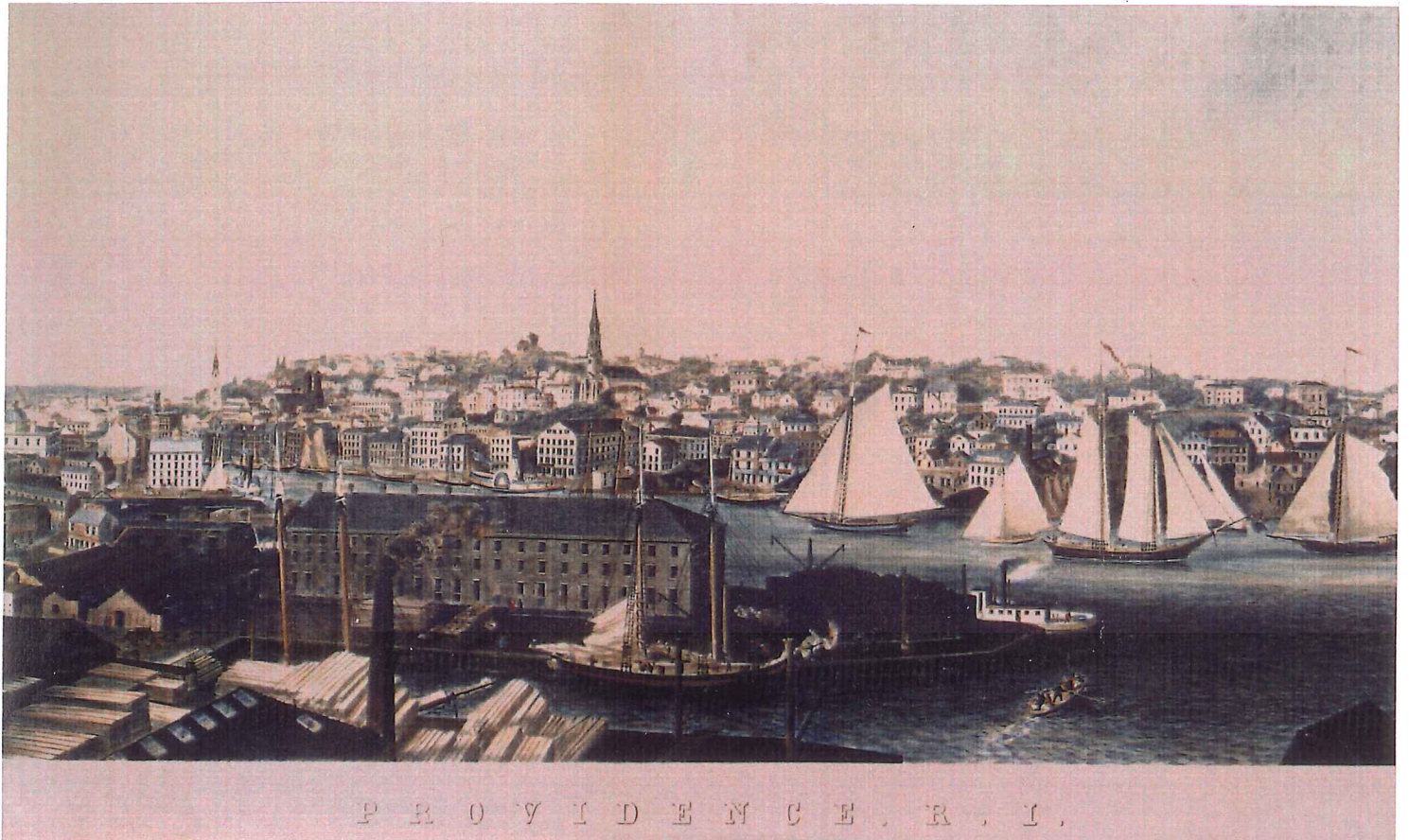


I-195 OLD HARBOR PLAN 1992



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DEDICATION

This Plan is dedicated to Robert E. Freeman. The seeds of the plan for the Old Harbor had laid dormant for six years. Early March of 1990, Rob Freeman, then early in his stewardship as Executive Director of the Providence Foundation, called me and wanted to talk about the Old Harbor Plan contained in the 1984 Providence Waterfront Study.

At the time, transportation engineers, faced with a deteriorating bridge carrying Interstate 195 over the Providence River, were formulating plans to rebuild the structure just to the north or the south of its present location. Aware of these plans, Rob, in mid-March, met with the engineers and me and said "If I-195 has to be rebuilt, why not move it out of the Old Harbor to the other side of the Hurricane Barrier. It would be a better route for the highway and free up the Old Harbor for riverwalks and development."

That is "vintage" Rob -- "let's do it, why not?"

In the ensuing 18 months, history has been made. The relocation of I-195 is the top contender in the ongoing federal/state evaluation process. With federal, state, and city funds the Old Harbor Plan has been completed. The Plan presents a bold and achievable vision to bring new life to Providence and to open up its harbor for future generations to enjoy. None of this would have taken place were it not for Rob -- his positive, upbeat nature, his knack for collaboration and bringing everyone into "the loop," his steady stream of letters and memos all clear statements of goals and issues, and, finally, his spontaneous humor that helped us all get over the rocky road and through the tight places.

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