

Chris O'Brien

From: Jane Arnold <arnlang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 5:01 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Wednesday, 4/7 Hearing on Budget Article 1, Section 18 (Extension of Bonds)

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Jane Arnold, I live in Pawtucket, and RIPTA is one of the reasons I moved to the Providence area. It's a way to get around town when it's too far to walk or too wet to bike, and it's especially convenient for me to get downtown and back after dark.

I have already listened and/or participated in four phone-in calls to committees and written several letters to every level Providence administrator I can think of to express my opposition to the loss of Kennedy Plaza as a central bus up. On every call, city administrators admitted that they don't take the buses. Please listen to those of us who do. If you break up that transfer location and relocate my bus to the Jewelry District, it will take me 20 minutes or longer to get from the train station commuter rail (which I trust I will again be able to use once we're all vaccinated) to that bus.

I'm especially upset that RIDOT will use the 2014 Mass Transit Hub Infrastructure Bond funds to dismantle and deconstruct the central bus hub in Kennedy Plaza. Although I'm fairly new to Rhode Island, I've heard a lot from long-term bus riders that this was not what they had in mind when they voted in favor of the bond. They thought the money would be used to improve transportation for residents who use it.

Please amend Article 1, Section 18 by inserting the following two sentences beginning on line 6:

"Per the 2014 Mass Transit Hub Infrastructure Bond ballot question, funds may only be utilized to fund enhancements and renovations to transit hub infrastructures. No bond funds may be utilized to dismantle or otherwise deconstruct the state's primary transit hub in Kennedy Plaza."

Thank you,

Jane Arnold
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