

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Juliet Antonio <auroraninetynine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 5:44 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 Juliet Antonio, and I'm from Rumford, Rhode Island. I am writing to you out of concern that RIDOT will use the 2014 Mass Transit Hub Infrastructure Bond funds to dismantle and deconstruct the central bus hub in Kennedy Plaza. This was not what voters like me intended when I voted in favor of that bond.

When I used to work at Whole Foods Market on Waterman Street in Providence, many of my coworkers rode the RIPTA bus to and from the store. If there was no central bus hub in Kennedy Plaza, they would not have been able to come into work everyday since they did not have a car. I am also a senior at Rhode Island College, and many of my classmates also used the RIPTA buses to get to class everyday from work and from home. In particular, I had a lot of classmates from my theatre major who rode the bus back home from rehearsal in the late hours of the evening. In college, we really try to make every penny count, and the RIPTA bus and Kennedy Plaza bus hub are life savers for those of us who cannot afford a car or who cannot get a ride in the late evening hours.

Please amend Article 1, Section 18 by inserting the following two sentences at the beginning of line 6 as follows:

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

Thank you for your time,

Juliet Antonio  
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