

Chris O'Brien

From: Houllahan <tehoullahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:36 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: jflaherty@growsmartri.org
Subject: Fwd: Kennedy Plaza Bus Hub

Please amend to line 6 of [Article 1, Section 18](#) of the State Budget, by adding the following two sentences: **"Per the 2014 Bond Referendum question, funds may only be utilized to fund enhancements and renovations to transit hub infrastructures. Therefore, no bond funds may be utilized to dismantle or otherwise deconstruct the state's primary transit hub in Kennedy Plaza."**

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

The Kennedy Plaza bus hub which daily serves over 15,000 thousand passengers from all walks of life from all over Rhode Island year round during the scorching summer heat and the freezing rain, snow, and wind of winter must be saved. This is a matter of racial and economic justice.

The RIDOT plan will send thousands of passengers, whether elderly and/or disabled, poor or student, white or minority, downtown employee or worker going from town to town, from a brilliantly conceived central location to four (4) different locations around the city.

Why? Because of a self-interested plan by a small group of downtown people who said, "removing the bus stops from Kennedy Plaza would improve safety and could help transform the space into a "celebratory area" that could serve the Providence community." Obviously, the commandeered RIDOT plan will help remove scruffy people who might disrupt "the look" of Kennedy Plaza for the occasional "celebratory event" and occasional tourist.

How will the RIDOT plan serve the needs of the thousands depending on the easiest point to point transit?

Roberta Houllahan

627 Hope St.

Providence RI 02906

401-272-5442