

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Susan Chakmakian <susan.chakmakian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 7:46 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 Susan Chakmakian, I'm from Cranston, and as an undergraduate and then as a grad student, RIPTA was my only way of getting to my summer job in Providence and my classes at URI as I did not have my own car at the time.

I'm very concerned about the loss of a central bus hub where RIPTA riders can make timely transfers and connections to get where they're going. Breaking up transfer locations means that it will take people even longer than it already does to get to their destinations by 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. This was not what voters like me intended when we voted in favor of that bond.

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

"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 for your consideration!

Sincerely,  
Susan Chakmakian  
38 Susan Drive  
Cranston, RI 02920