

Chris O'Brien

From: Susan Feeley <smf123@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 4:54 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Extension of bonds; Bus hub

SUBJECT: Wednesday, 4/7 Hearing on Budget Article 1, Section 18 (Extension of Bonds)

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Susan Feeley and I'm from Providence. I use RIPTA often enough that I really value an easy-to-use bus hub in Kennedy Plaza. The current proposal to use money from the 2014 infrastructure bond (which I voted for!!) to actually make that bus hub LESS useful to me, and many other transit users, is infuriating. It's very important to me that I can make timely transfers and connections to get where I'm going. Breaking up transfer locations means that it will take me even longer than it already does to get where I'm going by bus. This was not what voters like me intended when I voted in favor of that bond. Furthermore, this kind of "bait and switch" maneuver using funding from a referendum is a terrible mistake. Public trust in referenda will shrink if referendum funding is misused in this way.

I urge you to 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,
Susan Feeley