

Chris O'Brien

From: Ted LeBlond <blond37@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 4:11 PM
To: House Finance Committee; Ted LeBlond
Subject: Wednesday, 4/7 Hearing on Budget Article 1, Section 18 (Extension of Bonds)

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Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Ted LeBlond, I'm from Providence and I use RIPTA as my primary way of getting to and from medical appointments, the supermarket and visiting family and friends.

I'm very concerned about the loss of a central bus hub where I can make safe and timely transfers and connections to get where I'm going. Breaking up transfer locations means that it will take me and other riders, especially the elderly and disabled even longer than it already does to get where I'm going by bus. I am on a limited and fixed income. Public transportation is my only option.

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 I 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,

Ted LeBlond