

Steven Sepe

From: Amy Joy Glidden <amy.joy.glidden@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:42 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Oppose H6122 Article 1 section 18

Hello esteemed members of the committee,

This is Amy Joy Glidden, writing to oppose H6122 Article 1 section 18. I have used RIPTA to travel since 2010 and pre and post pandemic, it's my primary mode of transportation as I do not have a car. The Kennedy Plaza hub is a convenient place for me to make transfers and easily access downtown. In fact, most riders disembark in Kennedy Plaza. Why should we disburse the bus hubs when Kennedy Plaza is where most people want to go?

RIDOT claims it can minimize transfers, but there is no way for them to track people who uses different types of passes and transfer, so they are being dishonest if they put a number on that. The thousands of people who oppose this plan have been shut out of the process. RIDOT came up with their plan and presented a largely finalized version to the public that was made with zero public input.

For these reasons, I oppose spending the 2014 bond money on Kennedy Plaza, which the original language of the bond stated was to be used for "multiple" sites "throughout" Rhode Island. The money would be better spent creating and expanding hubs in places like Warwick, Pawtucket and in South County. I agree that this bill should include the following revision:

We seek an amendment to line 6 of Article 1, Section 18 adding the following two sentences: "Per the 2014 Bond Referendum, 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."

Sincerely,

Amy Joy Glidden