

Chris O'Brien

From: C. A. Denisevich <cdenisevich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:10 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of changes to Article 1, Section 18

To the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing to ask for a change to Article 1, Section 18 because I'm upset about the loss of Providence's central bus hub which allows riders to make timely transfers and connections to get to their destinations. Breaking up transfer locations means commutes will be even longer than they already are. Public transit is used the most by lower income individuals, most of these are people of color. These groups have been hit extra hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused them to risk their lives taking public transit to get to their jobs so they can continue to earn a living. By breaking up Kennedy Plaza and lengthening commutes, it is a slap in the face to those that have been risking their lives to keep our economy running.

I'm especially troubled 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 intended with this 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 time.

-Alex Denisevich
East Greenwich, RI