

Chris O'Brien

From: Kari Lang <kari@wbna.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:12 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Representative John Lombardi; Rep_Williams; Rep. Williams, Anastasia P.; Rep. Lombardi, John J.
Subject: Wednesday, 4/7 Hearing on Budget Article 1, Section 18 (Extension of Bonds)

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

The West Broadway Neighborhood Association (WBNA) represents neighbors in the West End and Federal Hill neighborhoods of Providence. Many of these neighbors, approximately 24%, do not own cars and depend on buses.

WBNA is very concerned about the potential loss of a central bus hub where timely transfers and connections are made. Breaking up transfer locations means extending the time to get to one place from another when this is already a challenge when travelling by bus. It is also an issue of equity and safety.

WBNA does not support RIDOT's intention to 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 when they 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,

Kari Nel Lang
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WBNA | *Working for people and place in our neighborhood for over 35 years.*
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My Office Hours:
Mon - Thurs: 7:00am - noon
WBNA Office Hours
Mon - Thurs 8:30am - 4:30pm
Closed: Friday-Saturday-Sunday