

Chris O'Brien

From: Nancy Nicholson <nlnpianist88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:30 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Wednesday, 4/7 Hearing on Budget Article 1, Section 18 (Extension of Bonds)

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

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Nancy Nicholson I'm from Providence and I useRIPTA frequently to go to and from the grocery store, to downtown, and to my church.

The loss of a central bus hub where I can make transfers and connections to get where I'm going will be devastating.

Breaking up transfer locations means that it will take me even longer than it already does to get where I'm going by bus.

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.

I ask that you amend Article 1, Section 18 by inserting the following two sentences beginning on line 6 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."

I have lived in Providence for decades. Do not again destroy Kennedy Plaza in the guise of "improving" bus service or traffic patterns. Leave it as it is. Now that mass transit becomes more and more essential to prevent climate disaster, do not disperse the central Kennedy Plaza bus hub.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nicholson, a RI Transit rider
90 12th St.
Providence, RI