

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Rochelle Lee <rochelle1951@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:37 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Patricia Raub; John Flaherty  
**Subject:** H6122 Article 1 Section 18 - Opposed without Passage of Amendment

**To:** RI House Finance Committee Members  
**Subject:** H6122 Article 1 Section 18  
**Date:** April 6, 2021

I oppose H6122 Article 1 Section 18 without including the proposed amendment to prohibiting RIDOT from spending 2014 bond funds from being used to eliminate the use of Kennedy Plaza as a central transit hub. This bill is scheduled to be heard on 4/7/2021. My name is Rochelle Lee and I live at 172 Ontario Street in Providence.

In 2014, voters were told these transit bond funds would provide for, "enhancement and renovations to mass transit hub infrastructure throughout the state...". For years, Kennedy Plaza has been a central hub, conveniently located near a range of destinations -- city and state offices, universities, courts, the banking and financial district, events, dining and entertainment, hotels and shopping, including Providence Place Mall. No other location in downtown Providence offers the capacity and streetscape for bus transfers that beats Kennedy Plaza.

Certainly Kennedy Plaza needs upgrades and everyone looks forward to those plans being developed with community inclusion in RIDOT's use of 2014 bond funds. So far, RIDOT has ignored widespread opposition to relocating buses from Kennedy Plaza, (KP).

Critics of RIDOT's Multi-hub planning process include elected officials, neighborhood associations, RI Transit Riders, Grow-Smart RI, American Planning Association of RI, Providence City Council, environmental, civil rights activists and community groups. Calls for RIDOT to discuss their multi-hub project have gone largely unheeded by RIDOT.

Approving the proposed amendment is a unique opportunity to put RIDOT on a track that will respectfully engage public input and informs RIDOT's decisions. The most impactful use of 2014 bond funds rests upon a plan that is equitable, to many communities, maintains Kennedy Plaza as a central hub but

I urge Committee members to adopt the amendment to H6122 Article 1 Section 18. Your affirmation represents the voice of people using public transit, advocates fighting for a robust public transit system and those who will be disproportionately impacted by removing KP as a central hub. I

Thank you, members of the House Finance Committee, for listening to the voices of your constituents who support this bill only with the amendment limiting use of bond money to prevent dismantling Kennedy Plaza as a central bus hub.

Yours,

Rochelle Lee  
([rochelle1951@gmail.com](mailto:rochelle1951@gmail.com))