

Dear Honorable Committee Members

Rhode Island Transit Riders strongly welcomes this mass transit bond despite some concerns with the language. It is our understanding that all the grassroots bus transit groups in the state are united, both in backing this bond and in backing language changes to ensure that the bond works as intended. Here's a glimpse at the future of RIPTA under the TMP. The R-line runs every 10 minutes during peak hours. If we fulfill the Transit Master Plan as laid out in the TMP bill, we will see rapid buses like the R-line in more communities. Buses will run more frequently and for longer hours, something business owners want. The Transit Master Plan (TMP) calls for more rapid buses like the R-line. RIPTA is undergoing a study to put light rail or a Rapid Bus from Central Falls through Providence, Cranston and Warwick to end at CCRI or TF Green. The TMP also calls for more crosstown routes so people don't have to go to Kennedy Plaza to get a bus. We will see increased rural service. The TMP also calls for pedestrian improvements to sidewalks and wayfinding, something that will benefit all pedestrians and drivers. The bill would greatly improve our state's infrastructure by building a more robust public transit system that serves a wider range of people in all parts of Rhode Island. It will make our state a more attractive destination for people to move to, make services far more accessible for seniors, and will make our state's climate efforts much easier to accomplish. We support H5470.

Sincerely,

Amy Joy Glidden, co-chair, RI Transit Riders