

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Archana Ramanujam, I live in Providence, and I am here/writing in support of Representative Tanzi's House bill H5470.

This bond for \$100 million would be great improvements and ensure we are working towards a more accessible, safer and reliable public transit system in Rhode Island. This bond would provide direct funding for a statewide transit system by providing improvement to: bus stops and shelters; safety and access to bus stops, including crosswalks, sidewalks and curb ramps; mobility hub and passenger facility infrastructure, including bathrooms, sheltered and secured bike racks and indoor waiting areas.

These are all essential to RIPTA being a successful public service that serves everyone. Without shelters and indoor waiting areas where appropriate, riders are left to the elements. Without crosswalks, riders are left to brave roads where cars disregard them, making it unsafe to reach the busstop. Those Rhode Islanders who take the bus deserve to do it with safety and dignity, like everyone else traveling. Additionally, this infrastructure would make it more attractive to take the bus for everyone. Increasing ridership is key to reducing congestion as well as reducing carbon emissions and air pollution. They would help us meet Rhode Island's climate targets. These pieces of infrastructure are both social and environmental investments that are urgent for Rhode Islanders.

I urge you to support H5470, to give public transit in Rhode Island the generational investment it needs to become a high-quality, 21st Century system that current and future residents and visitors can rely on.

Sincerely,

Archana Ramanujam
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