

Dear Chair Abney and honorable members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Cedric Ye, I live in Providence, and I am a 16 year old high school student at the Providence Country Day School. **I am writing in strong support of Rep. Tanzi's H5470**, which would provide a \$100M bond referendum for the Transit Master Plan.

40% of Rhode Island's emissions come from transportation. It is impossible to meet our Act on Climate mandates without cutting emissions from the transportation sector, and the election of a federal government determined to strip away any progress on vehicle electrification means that we will not be able to meet our climate mandates without reducing driving. **My generation's ability to have a future at all relies on the state doing its part in the climate crisis, and we will not be able to do that without expanding public transportation.**

At the same time, Rhode Island is faltering in its economic competitiveness; Hasbro has publicly stated that in moving its headquarters it will be "prioritizing convenience to public transit". Not only do we need to prevent devastating service cuts to public transit, there has never been a more urgent time to expand it.

RIPTA already has a 20 year vision to build a world-class transit system: The Transit Master Plan. It would **bring over 19,000 temporary and 3,700 permanent jobs to Rhode Island, increase business output by \$560 million, spark two to five billion dollars in Transit Oriented Development** at a time when the Providence metropolitan area has the worst housing crisis in the nation, and **achieve 80% of the Act on Climate's vehicles miles traveled reduction targets**. Since its passage in 2020, there has not been a single dime allocated to its implementation; the TMP bond referenda would be a critical step in improving bus stops and train stations, and build infrastructure to make transit faster and more reliable, providing a badly needed escape from our chronic traffic congestion; bus lanes and bus stops can be built faster and cheaper than the Washington Bridge.

The Transit Master Plan could transform my life. It could enable me to visit a friend in Narragansett without spending four hours on the bus first. It could enable me to stay doing extracurriculars past 5:30, instead of running out the door because of the pitiful late night schedule. It would encourage me and many others in my generation to stay in Rhode Island instead of trying to move somewhere (like Massachusetts) that does invest in public transit and has reaped all the benefits of economic competitiveness, sustainability, and quality of life.

**I urge you to please support H5470**, which would be a critical step in creating the public transit system that a competitive, resilient 21st century Rhode Island needs and deserves.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cedric Ye

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