

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a car-free, transit dependent resident of Woodlawn and I am writing in support of Representative Tanzi's House bill H5470.

I am a member of the Technical Working Group for RIPTA's "Metro-Connector" studying a high-capacity transit corridor that would connect Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, Cranston and Warwick using high capacity transit. This spine is the backbone of the Transit Master Plan, a vision for the future of transit that Rep. Tanzi's bill would provide foundational funding for. The TMP is much larger than just the Metro Connector, it would transform public transit and create a system that encourages fewer car trips with more frequent buses, longer service hours, and increased reliability.

We are never going to achieve our climate goals without a robust modeshift away from driving, which makes up 40% of our transportation emissions. Further, of that share, fully $\frac{2}{3}$ of these emissions come from private vehicles according to data from DEM.

Public transportation can be an economic engine for Rhode Island, but for generations we have let it languish to the point that only riders who absolutely depend on it will use it. The transit master plan has been gathering dust on a shelf for the last five years, it is time we take bold action to implement it.

I urge you to have a vision for the future of public transit and support Rep. Tanzi's bill H5470.

Thank you,

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