

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Kenny Uong, I live in Providence, and I would like to express my support for Representative Tanzi's Bill H5470. This bill would put forward a bond for \$100 Million Capital Improvements for Implementation of the Transit Master Plan, also known as Transit Forward RI 2040. Funding the Transit Master Plan is crucial since it would provide improvements 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.

RIPTA has already brought us the Downtown Transit Corridor, which provides fast and frequent service from the Providence Train Station to the Hospital District. The agency has expanded their fleet to include battery-electric buses for the R-Line service. They are currently building a passenger facility at the Pawtucket/Central Falls Transit Center. Funding the Transit Master Plan would enable RIPTA to expand its network by adding more crosstown routes to close existing mobility gaps.

I strongly urge the House Finance Committee to support H5470. Rhode Island's public transit system needs a bold, generational investment to become the high-quality, 21st-century system that residents and visitors—now and in the future—deserve and can depend on.

Thank you,

Kenny Uong
Providence, RI 02906