

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Peter Brassard, I am writing in support of Representative Tanzi's House bill H5470.

This bond for \$100 million would provide for 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 restrooms, sheltered and secured bike racks and indoor waiting areas.

RIPTA's transit service is an essential and integral part of the state's economy that's used by workers at all economic levels, low income residents, the elderly, students, and visitors. Improvements that would be funded by this bond would reinforce the overall transit system, which provides last mile connections for employees who use commuter rail and tourists who arrive by Amtrak or air.

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,

Peter Brassard

Chair, Rhode Island Association of Railroad Passengers
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