

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Veronicka Vega, I live in Woonsocket, and I am writing in support of Representative Tanzis 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.

Before COVID, I used to use RIPTA's 54 line daily to get to class at Johnson & Wales University. They offered a commuter bus pass that was cheaper than paying \$4/day, the pass also encouraged my to use RIPTA more since I was paying one flat fee for an entire month of unlimited rides.

After COVID I was working full-time and relied on the local RIPTA 87 line to get to my job in Woonsocket, run errands, get to doctor's appointments, etc. It was affordable and convenient.

The bond for \$100m would allow RIPTA to finally complete projects that have been proposed and planned for years. For example, Mobility Hubs and other bus stop upgrades would make an immense difference for riders. Having bathrooms, charging stations, better crosswalks and pedestrian infrastructure would make such a big difference.

Please think about the working class, students, elderly, and people living with disabilities in Rhode Island who rely on public transit to get around their community.

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,

Veronicka Vega
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