



## more, better & safer bicycling

May 21, 2025

Bari Freeman  
Executive Director

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
VIA EMAIL - [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

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RE: In Support of H-6006 – Bond Referendum in support of implementing RI's Bicycle Mobility Plan

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 6006 and thank Representative Tanzi for introducing this \$25M Bond Referendum proposal for the 2026 General Election in support of capital investments to implement the Rhode Island Bicycle Mobility Plan.

As a member of the group of statewide advocates and experts who worked with Statewide Planning to create the Rhode Island Bicycle Mobility Plan, I know firsthand the promise of this plan to address vital local and statewide connectivity and to advance the improvements needed to advance multimodal options that benefit our economy, health, and environment.

Used as state match, passage of this bond could leverage up to another **\$125M** in federal investment toward achieving this statewide goal of a fully connected network.

- Most daily trips are of distances that are easily walkable or bikeable, but that most people don't feel safe doing so without protective infrastructure.
- Here on Aquidneck Island – 50% of all car trips are under 2 miles, 24% are under 1 mile. People want to bike and walk these short distances, but don't because they don't feel safe.
- Investments in walkability and bikeability support our economy, quality of life, public health and our environment.
- The Bicycle Mobility Plan was adopted by the state in 2020, yet only 1.7% of it has been implemented or funded.
- When previous bond proposals have been presented to voters (the last one was 2018) they have always earned strong and decisive support.

Please support this investment in Rhode Island's future. We stand by ready to assist

On behalf of the Board and staff of Bike Newport,  
Sincerely yours,

  
Bari Freeman, Executive Director