



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island House

RE: H 6006 “An Act Relating to Capital Development Program – 2026 Bond Referenda”

Dear Chair Abney and Committee Members:

On behalf of The Providence Foundation, I am writing to express our support for H 6006, which would authorize the State to issue \$100 million in general obligation bonds to advance the implementation of Rhode Island’s statewide Transit Master Plan. This legislation would place a bond measure on the November 2026 general election ballot, seeking voter approval to fund critical transit infrastructure improvements.

This investment is essential to modernizing our transit system and addressing the mobility needs of residents, visitors, and workers – particularly in Downtown Providence, a key economic and employment hub. The proposed funding would help deliver safer, more reliable, and more accessible transportation options while supporting long-term growth and sustainability.

In April, The Providence Foundation co-hosted a transit forum with Grow Smart RI featuring business leaders from Nashville, Tennessee. Rhode Islanders representing various sectors, industries and interests heard directly about Nashville’s success in passing a \$3.1 billion referendum in 2024 to invest in transit, sidewalks, and traffic signal upgrades. Their experience underscores the vital link between robust transit infrastructure and regional economic competitiveness. At a time when Rhode Islanders are facing rising costs of living, expanding access to affordable, dependable transportation is a strategic and equitable way to support working families and the businesses that rely on them.

The Providence Foundation believes that a modern, integrated statewide transit network is not only a benefit to daily riders – it could be a foundation to Rhode Island’s economic vitality, environmental goals, and long-term resilience. H 6006 represents a critical step toward achieving that vision.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to building a more connected, inclusive, and forward-looking transportation system for our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David A. Salvatore'.

David Salvatore
Executive Director
The Providence Foundation