



Blackstone Valley
TOURISM COUNCIL

TOURBLACKSTONE.COM

May 19, 2025

House Finance Chair Marvin Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee
House Committee on Finance
State House, Providence, RI 02903

Via Email - HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support Testimony H6006

Dear Committee:

On behalf of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, I am writing in support of H6006. I very much appreciate the work of Representative Tanzi, creating this opportunity to help complete the bicycle trails network in our state.

With the Rhode Island Division of Planning's Bicycle Mobility Plan completed and updated, what needs to be done now is to complete the network began over 50 years ago. Our paths are used more each year as places for health improvement and found by more visitors each year who are enjoying the bikeways of our state.

A completed network will connect Westerly to Woonsocket and Newport to North Scituate. We need the "political will" to complete our network. Please give our Rhode Island voters a chance to consider this \$25 million Bond Referendum in 2026 to exercise their public will to complete the work begun decades ago.

Used as state match, passage of this bond could leverage up to another \$125 million in federal investment toward achieving this statewide goal of a fully connected network. When previous bond proposals have been presented to voters (the last one was 2018), they have always earned strong and decisive support.

I encourage you to support this investment in Rhode Island's future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Billington
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council

Upcoming Hearing: Wed. May 21, 4:00pm (Agenda)

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