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May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903
VIA EMAIL - HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

RE: Support of H-6006 – 2026 Bond Referenda in support of RI's Bike Mobility Plan

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of Grow Smart RI, I write in support of House Bill 6006 and thank Representative Tanzi for introducing this \$25M Bond Referenda proposal in support of the capital investments to implement Rhode Island's data-driven, duly vetted and state-adopted Bike Mobility Plan.

Grow Smart RI is Rhode Island's statewide smart growth advocacy organization. We represent a big-tent coalition of business and civic leaders and community stakeholders committed to strengthening and growing Rhode Island's economy in a sustainable and equitable way. We work with community partners across the state to integrate smart land use, transportation and housing policies in a way that uses resources most efficiently and that creates thriving, vibrant and opportunity rich places.

Investing in a safe and pedestrian network across our state is an investment in a stronger economy, in our tourism industry, improved public health, in the revitalization of our downtowns and Main Street corridors, quality of life. It's also an investment in reducing traffic congestion, emissions and meeting our state's Act on Climate targets.

If used as state match, passage of this bond could leverage up to another **\$125M** in federal investment in achieving this statewide goal.

Here's what we know:

- **More than half of all trips taken are under 3 miles, and nearly 1/3 are less than a mile.** These distances are ideal for traveling by foot or bicycle (reducing congestion and increasing physical activity), but only if people feel safe doing so.
- **Rhode Island already has a publicly vetted and adopted vision for the future of safe bike and pedestrian mobility** that will give more Rhode Islanders choices in how they get where they're going safely.
- **When previous bond proposals have been presented to voters** (the last one was 2018) **they have always earned strong and decisive support.**

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

Yours truly,

John Flaherty
Deputy Director