

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
Rhode Island House Finance Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

PeopleForBikes Comments in Support of HB6006

PeopleForBikes respectfully urges the Rhode Island House Finance Committee to support [HB6006](#) and advance it to the November 2026 general election ballot. This legislation gives voters the opportunity to approve a \$25 million bond to fund the development of a seamless, statewide bicycle network, connecting off-road and on-street routes for both transportation and recreation across Rhode Island.

About PeopleForBikes

PeopleForBikes is a national bicycle organization and the U.S. bicycle industry's trade association, representing more than 340 bicycle industry supplier members and nearly 1.4 million individual supporters. Through our three areas of influence, infrastructure, policy, and participation, we accelerate the construction of safe, fun, and connected places to bike; advance pro-bike and pro-bike-business legislation; and reduce barriers to welcome more people to the joys of riding a bike.

Over the past two years, voters across the United States have approved more than \$29 billion in new funding for bike infrastructure projects supported by PeopleForBikes and our [Vote for Bikes initiative](#). This includes \$5 million in Rhode Island through the statewide approval of [Question 4](#) in 2024. Rhode Island has the opportunity to continue this momentum by advancing HB6006, giving voters more opportunities to shape a safer, healthier, and more connected future for biking. PeopleForBikes supports comprehensive and safe bicycle and multimodal infrastructure as part of our goal to make the United States the best place in the world to ride a bike. Our [City Ratings](#) program helps local leaders, planners, and advocates identify strategies to improve bicycling through metrics like safety, ridership, and network connectivity. Currently, no Rhode Island community scores above 43 out of 100, and cities like Providence and Newport remain well below national leaders like Minneapolis, Fort Collins, and Boulder. Through our [Great Bike Infrastructure Project](#), we work directly with communities to support transformative projects, and with Vote for Bikes, we track and support ballot initiatives across the country that give residents a direct say in making biking better. By passing HB6006, Rhode Island can join other states in leading the way toward more bike-friendly, people-first communities.



peopleforbikes

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Support for HB6006

PeopleForBikes strongly supports HB6006 because it empowers Rhode Island voters to approve a \$25 million bond that will fund a transformative statewide bicycle network. This seamless off-road and on-street system will connect communities across the state, offering safer and more accessible transportation and recreation options for all Rhode Islanders.

A lack of safe places to ride is the number one reason people do not bike. Research shows that 84% of people would ride more often if separated bike infrastructure were available. Data from cities across the U.S. and around the world consistently show that protected bike infrastructure reduces injuries and fatalities for all road users. Streets with protected bike lanes have been found to experience up to 90% fewer injuries per mile than those without. In cities with robust bike infrastructure, all traffic fatalities drop by as much as 44%. These projects also yield significant public health and economic benefits. In just one year, 37 communities avoided \$18.1 million in healthcare costs through safer street designs. Every dollar invested in active transportation can return up to \$24 in medical savings due to increased physical activity and reduced crash injuries.

Investments in biking infrastructure are investments in economic growth and equitable opportunity. Historically underserved communities face disproportionate traffic risks and limited access to safe, affordable transportation. Providing high-quality, connected bike infrastructure in these neighborhoods is a direct investment in safer streets, lower transportation costs, and improved mobility options. Protected bike lanes also spur local business activity, retail corridors with bike infrastructure have seen sales increase by 20–49%, while commercial vacancies drop significantly.

PeopleForBikes strongly supports HB6006 and the opportunity it presents to invest in a more connected, active, and sustainable Rhode Island. We encourage the House Finance Committee to approve this legislation and give Rhode Island voters the chance to shape a safer, healthier future through better bicycling.

Respectfully submitted,

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