

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Dorothy Hetherington <dotcorbeil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:36 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support H6096

I support H6096 for the simple reason the it makes sense to do so.

Kennedy Plaza is a ideal place for Rhode Island's main transport hub because it's central, near the streets and highways that buses use, and near rider destinations. Next Wave, the company trying to move bus hub out of Kennedy Plaza, made a map of where bus riders want to go, showing that the biggest cluster of bus rider destinations is just south of Kennedy Plaza, not near the proposed new sites. Those new sites are also on narrow streets that would require intense public planning to widen the streets for regular bus use.

All that doesn't mention the cost. Current estimates put the moving of Kennedy Plaza at 250 to 500 million dollars, and anyone whose worked in government long enough knows that estimate will balloon. With the Washington bridge as it is are we ready for a second long term project that will cost Tax payers millions of dollars.

No bus rider wants Kennedy Plaza to move and property owners near proposed sites do not want a world class bus hub to move near them. Riders are intent to getting to their destinations with as little fuss as possible, and this includes walking times, location of the bus stop relative to the destination and the number of bus transfers needed. For example if someone is trying to get to the courthouse on dorance st. from Kennedy Plaza they might decide to walk it instead.

I've spoken to many property owners in the proposed sites in more than one location. Even City Council members. One worry expressed is always crime that is a given, and the statistics of other bus hub moves around the country, a valid one. However, the biggest worry is the impact of buses on the roads, noise pollution and operation hours. Buses run until midnight in some cases, often on well lit roads, and use a outside speaker to announce "bus is turning." If the bus hub location is near a residential property how long would it be before RIPTA would get noise complaints? It's obvious that no one is taking this into account.

My last point I leave you with is this. The city counsel, who RIPTA would need to work with to move the bus hub, unanimously voted to oppose to any attempt to move Kennedy Plaza. These members sit on their zoning boards, ratified a resolution of opposition and rejected their own Mayor's attempts at support for moving Kennedy Plaza. Support of this dream to move Kennedy Plaza is political suicide, but that's why everyone is trying to be quiet about it.

Please support H6096. Thank you.

Dorothy Hetherington