

Dear Chair Abney and Committee members,

My name is Brian Wenger, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Representative Tanzi's Transit Master Plan Bond Bill H8202.

Since moving to Providence, I have used RIPTA many times, but am often left wondering how much better it could be. Despite many mentions of public transit being a priority (see below), we just have not seen the progress to keep up with what we need to actually do for something like the TMP. I am hopeful this bill along several others can begin to make that happen.

This bond for \$100 million in capital funding for RIPTA would finally make progress towards implementation of the visionary Transit Master Plan (TMP) adopted by the state in 2020 and help build a more convenient, accessible, safe, and reliable public transit system in Rhode Island.

As it stands today, most RIPTA trips are not competitive with driving because the bus is stuck in traffic and has to make many stops. This bond would fund the construction of rapid bus routes across the state identified in the TMP, like the planned Metro Connector project, that would drastically speed up transit travel times for transit riders. This would attract new ridership and meet our Act on Climate goals by funding the infrastructure needed to improve our public transportation system here in Rhode Island.

This bond would also provide direct funding for desperately needed improvements for current RIPTA riders. This includes improvements to bus stops and shelters; safer pedestrian access to bus stops including crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb ramps; and better passenger facilities at current bus hubs including bathrooms, sheltered and secured bike racks, and indoor waiting areas.

I urge you to support H8202, to give public transit in Rhode Island the generational investment it needs to become a high-quality, 21st Century system that current and future residents and visitors can rely on.

Sincerely,

Brian Wenger

21 East Transit St Apt 2, Providence, RI 02906