

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Kenny Uong, I live in Providence, and I would like to express my strong support for Representative Tanzi's H8202. This bill would authorize a \$100 million bond for capital improvements to implement the 2026 Transit Master Plan. Investing in this plan is essential, as it would improve bus stops and shelters, enhance safety and access through better crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb ramps, and support mobility hubs and passenger facilities with amenities like bathrooms, secure bike parking, and indoor waiting areas.

RIPTA has already made meaningful progress. The Downtown Transit Corridor now provides fast, frequent service between the Providence Train Station and the Hospital District. The agency also opened a new passenger facility at the Pawtucket/Central Falls Transit Center. Planning is also underway for the Metro Connector, which would bring high-quality transit service to Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, Cranston, and Warwick. RIPTA also improved their Flex On Demand service, expanding accessibility to many parts of the state that have limited or no fixed-route service. Funding the Transit Master Plan would build on this momentum by allowing RIPTA to expand its network, including adding more crosstown routes to better connect communities and close existing mobility gaps.

I strongly urge you to support this piece of legislation. Rhode Island's transit system needs a bold, generational investment to become the high-quality, 21st-century system that residents and visitors deserve and can rely on for generations to come.

Thank you,

Kenny Uong  
Providence, RI 02906