

Dear Chair Abney and Committee members:

My name is Pat Foley, I live in Edgewood, and I am writing in support of Rep. Tanzi's Transit Master Plan Bond Bill H8202.

I am a lifelong transit rider and have ridden systems across the globe to meet my personal and business mobility needs everywhere I have lived and worked.

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. Every economically successful and culturally rich city I have ever encountered has had a robust public transit option for its residents and visitors. It is time for Rhode Island to stop shortchanging itself and those who live, work and visit here, but cannot depend on RIPTA to get them to their destinations with frequency and dependability.

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,
Pat Foley

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