



Rhode Island Organizing Project
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TO: House Finance Committee
SUBJECT: SUPPORT (H8202) – Transit Master Plan Bond Referenda
Via Email: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Dear Chair Abney and Committee members,

My name is Raymond Gagne, and I am writing in my capacity as the Director of the RI Organizing Project (RIOP). I am writing in support of Rep Tanzi's Transit Master Plan Bond Bill H8202.

The Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP) has been working on transportation issues for the past ten years. RIOP works primarily with low-income elders and adults with disabilities who rely on RIPTA for their daily transportation needs. In our on-going outreach bus riders have expressed a strong interest in RIPTA creating new rapid lines and improving its infrastructure. Bus riders tell us they would like to see RIPTA repair existing bus shelters and improve pedestrian safety around bus stops.

I work in downtown Providence and use the bus to attend meetings in Pawtucket and other neighborhoods in Providence. I would use the bus more often if there was faster service to cities such as Cranston, Newport, Warwick, and Woonsocket. The Transit Bond Bill (H8202) would help speed up bus service between dense urban areas of Rhode Island via RIPTA's proposed Metro Connector Project.

I ask for your support for H8202. Improving RIPTA's infrastructure will help the agency recruit new bus riders and improve service for existing riders.

Sincerely,

Raymond R Gagne
Director
RI Organizing Project

