

Chris O'Brien

From: will masse <willmasse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:06 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L.
Subject: SUPPORT (H8202) - Transit Master Plan Bond Referenda

Categories: Red category

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is William Masse, I live in Warwick, Rhode Island, and I am writing in support of Representative Tanzi's Transit Master Plan Bond Bill H8202.

I rely on RIPTA to commute from Warwick to Providence most days using Route 4, and the recent service cuts have made my commute more difficult and less reliable. Buses run less frequently, and when they do arrive, they often get stuck in traffic, making travel times unpredictable and sometimes much longer than driving. This makes it harder to depend on transit, even though it is my primary way of getting to work.

This bond for \$100 million in capital funding for RIPTA would finally make meaningful progress toward implementing Rhode Island's Transit Master Plan and building a more convenient, accessible, safe, and reliable public transit system.

Right now, many RIPTA trips are not competitive with driving because buses are delayed by traffic and frequent stops. Investments in high-capacity transit infrastructure, such as rapid bus routes identified in the Transit Master Plan, would significantly improve travel times and reliability for riders like me. Faster, more dependable service would make transit a more attractive option and help reduce congestion.

This bond would also fund critical improvements for current riders, including better bus stops and shelters, safer pedestrian access with improved sidewalks and crosswalks, and upgraded facilities at transit hubs. With longer wait times due to reduced service, having safe and comfortable places to wait becomes even more important.

At a time when Rhode Island is working to meet its Act on Climate goals and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, investing in modern public transit infrastructure is essential. A stronger transit system will support workers, improve access to jobs and services, and help build a more sustainable future for the state.

I urge you to support H8202 to provide the generational investment needed to transform RIPTA into a reliable, high-quality transit system that Rhode Islanders can depend on.

Sincerely,
William Masse
Warwick, Rhode Island