

# PROVIDENCE ----- -- STREETS COALITION

April 14, 2026

Re: Letter of Support – Rhode Island Bike Path Bond Question (H8298)

Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Providence Streets Coalition to express our strong support for H8298, the proposed bond measure to fund the implementation of the Rhode Island Statewide Bicycle Mobility Plan and completion of bike paths across Rhode Island. It has been 8 years since we last included funding in our Green Bond, and when asked, voters overwhelmingly supported the investment, with 78.9% voting yes.

Ocean State's Accelerates, RI's economic development plan adopted in 2023 identifies bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as essential to economic competitiveness. Indeed the data bears this out: A 2016 study determined that the Blackstone River Bikeway's nearly 551,000 visitors spent almost \$7.3 million, while the East Bay Bike Path's roughly 837,000 users directly spent over \$12.4 million. In 2024, bicycling activity alone accounted for over \$6.5 million in value added to Rhode Island's Gross Domestic Product.

Having access to safe, alternative forms of transportation is critical to meeting our climate goals through reduction of vehicle miles travelled. In addition to high quality public transit, which our organization is fighting tirelessly for with our Save RIPTA campaign, we must prioritize our state's bike network in a meaningful way, to connect people with economic opportunities with a multimodal system that works for everyone, not one that caters exclusively to drivers.

Dedicated bond funding would allow the state to close critical gaps in the network, improve safety at dangerous intersections, and expand access to communities that rely on cycling for everyday transportation, as well as those of all ages who use it for recreation.

We urge the Committee to support H8298, adding this component to the Green Bond question in 2026 and give voters the opportunity to once again invest in bike paths and in Rhode Island's future – one that is healthier, greener, and more connected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dylan Giles  
Operations Manager