

Chris O'Brien

From: Hannah Kittel <hkittel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:32 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: SUPPORT (H8298) - Rhode Island Bike Path Bond Question

Categories: Red category

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Hannah Turner, MPH, Chair of Portsmouth BPAC
15 Vesper Ln
Portsmouth, RI 02871
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 the Portsmouth BPAC 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.

Safe, well-connected bicycle infrastructure is a sound public investment. Rhode Island's communities stand to benefit in multiple ways: reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, stronger public health outcomes, and increased economic activity along active transportation corridors. Studies consistently show that every dollar invested in bike infrastructure yields significant returns through tourism, local business activity, and reduced healthcare costs.

Rhode Island already has a proud legacy in this space and Portsmouth would love to join the communities who have benefited from state investment to allow safe biking. Our two main roads (East and West Main Rd) are state-owned and we hope to work with the state on modernizing these corridors for safe multimodal transportation. 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,
Hannah Turner, MPH
Chair, Portsmouth BPAC
hkittel@gmail.com