



GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

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April 13, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
VIA EMAIL - HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for H-8298 (\$25M Bond Referenda to Implement state-adopted Bicycle Mobility Plan)

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Grow Smart RI, I write in support of H-8298 and thank Representative Tanzi for introducing this \$25M Bond Referenda proposal in support of the capital investments to implement Rhode Island's data-driven, duly-vetted and state-adopted Bike Mobility Plan.

Grow Smart RI is Rhode Island's statewide smart growth advocacy organization. We represent a big-tent coalition of business and civic leaders and community stakeholders committed to strengthening and growing Rhode Island's economy in a sustainable and equitable way. We work with community partners across the state to integrate smart land use, transportation and housing policies in a way that uses resources most efficiently and that creates thriving, vibrant and opportunity rich places.

Investing in a safe and pedestrian network across our state is an investment in a stronger economy, in our tourism industry, improved public health, in the revitalization of our downtowns and Main Street corridors, quality of life. It's also an investment in reducing traffic congestion, emissions and meeting our state's Act on Climate targets.

As of the December 2025 publishing of Rhode Island's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the 2020 Bicycle Mobility Plan is just 1.7% implemented. If used as state match, passage of this bond could leverage up to another **\$125M** in federal investment in achieving statewide connectivity and creating good paying jobs.

Here's what we know:

- **More than half of all trips taken are under 3 miles, and nearly 1/3 are less than a mile.** These distances are ideal for traveling by foot or bicycle (reducing congestion and increasingly physical activity), but only if people feel safe doing so.
- **Rhode Island already has a publicly vetted and adopted vision for the future of safe bike and pedestrian mobility** that will give more Rhode Islanders choices in how they get where they're going, safely and with dignity.
- **When previous bond proposals have been presented to voters** (the last one was 2018) **they have always earned strong and decisive support.**

We encourage you to support this investment in Rhode Island's future.

Yours truly,

John Flaherty
Senior Advisor and Special Projects