

Chris O'Brien

From: Sarah Mermin <sarahmermin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 11:00 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: SUPPORT (H8298) - Rhode Island Bike Path Bond Question

Categories: Green category

You don't often get email from sarahmermin@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Finance Committee Members,

I am a resident of Newport and I would like to voice my 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.

I have relied on bike paths as a safe way to ride bikes with my children. I would bring my children to Bristol and South County to use the bike paths. They are crucial when children are just learning to ride bikes. It is actually fairly dangerous to ride a bike in Newport, especially during tourist season when there are far too many cars on the road. 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.

I 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,
Sarah Mermin, LICSW
16 Princeton St, Newport, RI
401-855-3683

Sarah Mermin, LICSW (she/her)
Certified AEDP Therapist
401-855-3683

www.zencare.co/sarah-mermin
www.aedpinstitute.org