

Chris Burich
3 Gardiner St #2
Newport RI 02840
(914)-299-2488

RE: Support for S2680
5/20/2026

To Chair DiPalma and the Senate Finance Committee,

I want to thank Senators Bell, Mack, Kallman, and Quezada for putting forth this legislation. As funding for RIPTA continues to fall short year after year, the idea of spending \$200,000,000-\$250,000,000 on the very unpopular bus hub relocation seems extremely financially irresponsible, and I hope the Senate Finance Committee will agree.

As a resident of Newport, I have been personally affected by the devastating cuts to RIPTA, specifically the loss of weekend service and reduced frequency of service during the weekdays on the 68 line. While I do own a vehicle, I bike and ride the bus as often as possible, helping to alleviate traffic, my carbon footprint, and ultimately save money. The cuts to RIPTA have made this personal mode shift even more difficult, so you can understand my frustration upon seeing upwards of a quarter billion dollars being proposed on a relocation of a bus hub.

Instead of spending taxpayer dollars to relocate a bus hub, which currently sits at a central location in Providence, why don't we spend this money to restore the cuts to RIPTA and actually start increasing the frequency of the bus lines? Or use this money to install benches and shading at stops across the state? Or use this money to recruit and retain drivers? Although I am a resident of Newport, this irresponsible spending for the hub relocation affects all riders across the state.

Even if a future hub location is deemed worthwhile, this legislation does not prohibit us from exploring those options. We are simply asking this committee to not spend a quarter billion dollars on something that is unwanted by Rhode Islanders. Talk to the riders and the drivers first.

To the Senate Finance Committee, I urge you to support Senate Bill S2680.

Thank you

Chris Burich
3 Gardiner St #2
Newport RI 02840
(914)-299-2488

