

From the desk of

# Janice Y. Douglas

5/20/2026

**TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**RE: SUPPORT S2680 – KENNEDY PLAZA BUS HUB**

I am a senior who will turn 70 years old this summer. I use multiple buses regularly, usually taking two buses one-way getting to just one destination. The Kennedy Plaza bus hub is a site that works very well and has been working for years. To move the bus hub out of Kennedy Plaza would be very expensive and would waste taxpayer money. There is no need for this! We riders do not want this hub moved.

The company --Next Wave -- that was unnecessarily paid millions of dollars to consult the ridership about hub locations and then to start designing a new hub has not consulted all the riders about their preferred location between the train station and Providence Place Mall. Not only did they not do their job fully, it is a foolhardy move to jam up the train station area which has its busy seasons with summer and holiday travelers. There is congestion at the train station already.

Further, the weight of all those multi-ton buses could compromise the safety of the Amtrak train tunnels. One has to question Next Wave's sensibility for proposing such a project. (Think of the damage to the bridge and the multiple millions that is costing from just vehicle traffic.)

If the move made sense -- and I've gained quite a bit in nearly 70 years, I would not oppose it. But it is a dangerous suggestion, poorly conceived, and Kennedy Plaza is fine just where it is.

Further, RIPTA is already struggling financially so it can hardly afford the cost of a bus hub move.

As taxpayers, we should not be asked to pay for the cost of this bus hub move with fare hikes, especially since it makes the bus system worse.

We are a small state. Fiscal waste like this is irresponsible and unjustified. Cut our losses with Next Wave and simply improve Kennedy Plaza which could be done at a fraction of the cost.

I urge all voting parties to **support S2680** and stop wasting money on Next Wave, or any other company, which has seen RI as their golden goose.

Thank you much, and thank you all for your service to the constituents of the State!

JYD