

Hello honorable members of our State Senate,

Today I am writing to you in support of senate bill S2680 which is the bill to stop the moving of the transit hub in Providence from Kennedy Plaza to Station Park. There is no reason for this consideration after spending time and taxpayer funds on improving both Kennedy Plaza and its nearby parks. It is not the presence of the transit hub that is keeping properties like the Superman Building downtown from being utilized, it is the costs of improving the property itself as well as the reality that physical office space is less relevant in a post covid world. The property itself that they are looking to move it to has its own large issue such as rail frontage underground that may both increase costs and delay construction due to both state and federal regulation. It is especially foolish when the state, with its continuing need for increasing public transit due to the effect that increased traffic has caused to our public road infrastructure, put through the largest cut in public transit since the formation of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). Any sort of investment in improving any aspect of RIPTA should be poured into increasing transit access through restoration of service hours, increased route frequency and more diverse routes. We have one of the most population dense states in the country, there is no reason our public transit should not be top flight.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maeve Dowd

State Senate District 2