

Jamie Plume

From: Jeanelle Wheeler <jeanellewheeler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2680)

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

Dear Committee members,

My name is Jeanelle Wheeler and I live in Providence. I am writing in support of Bill S2680 that would stop the inexpensive and unjust plan to move the bus hub out of Kennedy Plaza.

As a daily bus rider without a car, I rely on the central location of Kennedy Plaza to allow me to make my bus transfers. I love KP. Its existence is essential for the community. And meanwhile, riders have not officially been asked if the new location of a bus hub is what they would want. RIPTA is already struggling financially, particularly after the recent service cuts, and cannot afford this move. Neither should taxpayers have to support it. Before spending this money, there needs to be a serious evaluation of whether or not the new preferred location of New Wave would actually be a better spot than Kennedy Plaza. Improving Kennedy Plaza itself could be done at a much lower cost. Riders like myself have suffered the reduced frequency after RIPTA's service cuts, often missing connections or dealing with longer wait times. Moving a bus hub to a different location would likely mean even more missed connections and decreased ridership and would be a disaster for those with limited mobility. Public transit in this state is essential. We don't need to destroy something that bus riders already know is working: Kennedy Plaza's central location.

Thank you for your time and I deeply support Bill S2680.

Sincerely,
Jeanelle Wheeler

Jamie Plume

From: Provost, Kara <kprovost0907@curry.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 12:27 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT S2680.

[You don't often get email from kprovost0907@curry.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 2680 regarding relocating the RIPTA bus hub out of Kennedy Plaza. This is a significant unnecessary expense to the state and its taxpayers. The consulting company being paid to plan the relocation hasn't even asked the public or bus riders if they support the relocation, nor have they provided data demonstrating that moving the bus hub will benefit riders and taxpayers. RIPTA has already had to reduce bus service due to budget cuts; I urge you to support S2680 and refuse to waste already limited funds on an unneeded, unasked-for, and costly transit project with no evidence that it will improve the situation for transit riders (and Rhode Island drivers stuck in traffic due to our inability inadequate public transportation).

Thank you,

Kara Provost
280 Hillside Ave
Pawtucket RI 02860

Jamie Plume

From: ribikeman@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 10:23 AM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Randall Rose; Rep_Handy; Sen. Vargas, Lammis J.
Subject: We support Bill S2860-No money to move Kennedy Plaza Transit Hub

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To Whom it may concern,

We are RIPTA riders who believe that Kennedy Plaza best suits the needs of all transit riders, and that rather than being moved to a less-ideal location, Kennedy Plaza should be kept as the transit hub and improved in both appearance and accessibility. It would be better to improve Kennedy Plaza which can be **done at a much lower cost.**

Here is why:

-Moving the bus hub out of Kennedy Plaza is unnecessary, very expensive and would waste taxpayer money.

--Bus riders do not want the bus hub moved.

--Kennedy Plaza is centrally located and is in a much better place for bus riders than the location Next Wave wants.

--Riders have never been officially consulted on whether it's even worthwhile to move the hub out of Kennedy Plaza, and when they've had a chance, they've said no.

--Next Wave is the company that is being paid millions to consult the public about hub locations and to start designing a new hub, but they never even consulted the public about their current preferred location between the train station and Providence Place mall. They didn't do their job! In addition no one knows if the location Next Wave wants is even safe for construction, with the Amtrak train tunnel underneath it.

--RIPTA is financially struggling so it can't afford the cost of this bus hub move.

--Taxpayers shouldn't be asked to pay for the cost of this bus hub move, since it makes the bus system worse.

--Unlike most people who ask you for more money, we're just asking you not to waste money on something unwanted.

--S2680 simply stops wasting money on Next Wave which hasn't fulfilled its contract, and doesn't prevent a future bus hub move if a new location really is worthwhile.

Our state needs and deserves an excellent public transit system-we must reduce the stranglehold cars have on both resources and tax dollars! Make public transportation attractive and reliable-enough money for cars already!

Thank you,
Richard Spencer
Richard Rodolf
Edgewood, RI

Jamie Plume

From: Edward Benson <ed.benson@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 9:37 AM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Sen. Sosnowski, V. Susan
Subject: S2680

You don't often get email from ed.benson@cox.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to ask you to support Senate bill 2680, to leave the bus hub where it has always been. Kennedy Plaza is one of the prettier public locations in RI; getting a chance to stroll through it has always been one of the best things about RI.

Jamie Plume

From: Jane Arnold <arnlang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 7:58 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: ri-transit-riders@lists.riseup.net
Subject: I support S2680: Do not move the bus hub from Kennedy Plaza!

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

To the Finance Committee:

I'm sure you don't need me to reiterate all of the essential points this bill makes. Let me say this:

I moved to the Providence area for many reasons when I retired, partly under the delusion that it had an adequate public transportation system with a well-organized and functioning central station (Kennedy Plaza). One of my earliest memories of hearing about the plan to move Kennedy Plaza was a phone conference with a legislative committee, just as the COVID lockdown started, discussing this move. All the people calling in had excellent reasons the hub should not be moved to (as was then the plan) to the Jewelry District. It turns out that *none* of the committee members on the phone call had ever taken public transportation in RI.

So how many years and how much money has been wasted with this plan, that plan, this fantasy, that fantasy. . . . when maybe we could have a clean-up and well-functioning bus hub and a working public transit system for *all of us*. The legislators too! I like taking public transit--I used to take a long-distance bus from Boston to Florida every summer for a consulting job--but the bus that serves my neighborhood runs so infrequently and so unreliably that I seldom use it. (I did when I was on crutches.)

Please stop this nonsense! Stop wasting money! Talk to the riders. Talk to the drivers. And put some money into making Kennedy Plaza a state-of-the-art bus hub and add lots and lots and lots of buses.

A pdf copy of this testimony is attached.

Jane Arnold
45 Blaisdell Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860
401-500-0251 (home)