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**From:** Amber Ma <amberhma87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 7:39 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** SUPPORT (S2813) - Transit Master Plan Bond Referenda

Dear Chair DiPalma (Senate) and Committee members,

My name is Amber Ma I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Senator Vargas' Transit Master Plan Bond Bill S2813.

In 2022, my husband and I sold our car to reduce our carbon footprint and save money. But since the service cuts went into effect, relying on RIPTA has become more challenging. Longer waits, overcrowded buses, and inconvenient transfers have made transit less reliable. Sometimes we forgo going out to support local shops and restaurants because we don't want to deal with the hassle of transit. Rhode Island's economy needs people moving. We need to fund RIPTA to expand its reach, ensuring that car-free living remains a viable, attractive choice.

This bond for \$100 million in capital funding for RIPTA would finally make progress towards implementation of the visionary [Transit Master Plan](#) (TMP) adopted by the state in 2020 and help build a more convenient, accessible, safe, and reliable public transit system in Rhode Island.

As it stands today, most RIPTA trips are not competitive with driving because the bus is stuck in traffic and has to make many stops. This bond would fund the construction of rapid bus routes across the state identified in the TMP, like the planned [Metro Connector](#) project, that would drastically speed up transit travel times for transit riders. This would attract new ridership and meet our Act on Climate goals by funding the infrastructure needed to improve our public transportation system here in Rhode Island.

This bond would also provide direct funding for desperately needed improvements for current RIPTA riders. This includes improvements to bus stops and shelters; safer pedestrian access to bus stops including crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb ramps; and better passenger facilities at current bus hubs including bathrooms, sheltered and secured bike racks, and indoor waiting areas.

I urge you to support S2813, to give public transit in Rhode Island the generational investment it needs to become a high-quality, 21st Century system that current and future residents and visitors can rely on.

Sincerely,

Amber Ma  
West End, Providence