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From: Archana Ramanujam <a.ramanujam@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2813) - Transit Master Plan Bond Referenda

Dear Chair DiPalma (Senate) and Committee members,

My name is Archana Ramanujam, I live in Providence and I am here/writing in support of Senator Vargas' Transit Master Plan Bond Bill S2813.

I use RIPTA multiple times a week to get to work, health appointments and social events. I rely on it, as my household has only one car, and I love using it. I often have to go to areas that have limited parking, making the bus the best choice. Additionally, RIPTA is usually less expensive and a greener way to get around. It reduces congestion, relieves the stress of driving, and makes streets safer for everyone by reducing cars and reckless drivers on the road. They also meet the city's climate goals by reducing carbon emissions.

Nevertheless, it has shortcomings. I am often waiting in the rain at spots without bus shelters. I often have to dodge traffic to cross the road. I often have to arrive way ahead of appointments, taking an earlier bus, because the bus that should have gotten me there 5 minutes before is delayed because of traffic.

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,

Archana Ramanujam
156 9th St ,providence RI