

April 2, 2026

Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair DiPalma and members of the committee:

The Kennedy Plaza Resilience Coalition is in favor of amending Sen. Vargas's transit bond bill S2813; we favor the concept behind the bill but would like some issues in the language to be corrected. As it stands, the language could be read to allow some or all of the money to be used towards the same project (Providence hub relocation) that is already being funded by money from an existing state GO bond from 2014. Using the new bond bill in this way is not the intent of this year's bill, and grassroots public transit groups are united in not wanting the proposed new bond to be used in this way in whole or in part. The language of the bill should be changed to make that absolutely clear. The bond bill S2813 represents an important investment that should be used for expanding the scope of current transit services rather than on a hub relocation.

Randall Rose, Kennedy Plaza Resilience Coalition