

Marygrace Heywood Larocque

From: Susan Marcus <marcus.susan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:32 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2813) - Transit Master Plan Bond Referenda

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

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Susan Marcus. I live in South Kingstown. I am writing in support of Senator Vargas' Transit Master Plan Bond Bill S2813.

I am retired from a career in economic development in an international organization. I would like to see Rhode Island legislators take advantage of the economic opportunities afforded by investing sustainably in public transit, something they currently neglect. The impacts generated by investment in public transportation ripple throughout the economy, extending beyond the initial dollar spent. Increased public transportation investment can lead to significant economic growth, as a consequence of both the short-term stimulus impact of public transportation outlays and a longer-term, cumulative impact on economic productivity. Progress towards the Transit Master Plan would go a long way towards broad improvement in RI's transit system.

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,

Susan Marcus
468 Post Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

--

<http://meadowrestoration.wordpress.com>