



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

April 16, 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
House Finance committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St  
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and honorable members of the committee:


I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 7491 entitled AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY. If passed this act would authorize the Rhode Island public transit authority to enter into certain projects and procure related services including the transit center project, using design-build contracting and progressive design-build contracting.

House Bill 7491 outlines the conditions related to authorizing the financing and delivery mechanism of the proposed Transit Hub in Providence. It would allow RIPTA to enter a Public-private partnership which is reflective of the structure that has already been proposed and effectively procured by RIPTA. Passing this legislation would also allow RIPTA to better position itself to take advantage of the Bus-Related development projects that the federal government is encouraging.

As Mayor, I believe that building a new bus hub is part of an important step in improving public transit in Providence. The proposal presents a model for sustainable urban growth and addresses current transit needs in our city, while also creating a new state-of-the-art facility. Additionally, It will enhance the transit experience while also making gains to address our statewide housing crisis.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to vote yes on House Bill 7491.

Sincerely,

  
Brett P. Smiley  
Mayor