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PBN Editorial

## **State's leaders must tackle transit issues**

Despite three major reports within the last 12 months that have highlighted transportation problems, the state seems little interested in tackling this pressing issue.

As a result, representatives of more than 20 groups, ranging from environmentalists to sustainable-development advocates, have banded together to push Rhode Island into improving the state's transportation infrastructure.

Hoping to follow in the footsteps of activists who successfully backed legislation last year addressing water issues, the Coalition for Transportation Choices (CTC) wants Gov. Donald L. Carcieri and the General Assembly to get serious about maintaining existing roads and bridges while also expanding "clean, efficient transportation choices."

The CTC sees public transit not only as a public good, but also as a key component of economic growth complementing Rhode Island's competitive advantages, such as its growing biotechnology sector, sustainable business development, or its creative economy.

While public investment will not solve the state's economic-development problems, smart investments and intelligent choices for transportation and other infrastructure will help create an environment to attract the private investment that will.