

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 9:48 AM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Cc:** Patricia Raub  
**Subject:** support for H5105 with an amendment from RI Transit Riders

Dear House Corporations Committee

This is Barry Schiller writing on behalf of RI Transit Riders to suggest an amendment to H5105 that we believe would make it more useful to advance the goal of better fare coordination between RIPTA and MBTA transit services, and other transit services too such as Amtrak.

We appreciate the sponsors interest in making transit easier to use, and indeed I note the plan "Transit Forward RI: that the state adopted in December 2020 (see <https://www.ripta.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/TFRI-Recs-Briefing-Book-Final-201230.pdf> )

recommends transit fare coordination in several places. For example, on page 19 it suggests RIDOT arrange for cross-honored fares between Amtrak and the MBTA commuter rail to help fill in gaps in service and provide access to faster trips for travel between Boston and Providence. Amtrak has such an arrangement in other states.

On page 44 in the section "making transit easier to use" it says "fares will be integrated" with MBTA passes honored on some Amtrak trains, MBTA passes honored on RIPTA buses and RIPTA passes honored on the MBTA trains for service within Rhode Island. This is even more useful now with the opening of the Pawtucket-Central Falls station served by both the MBTA and RIPTA.

On page 61, in the "next steps" section it suggests within 1 to 4 years we should have use of MBTA passes on Amtrak and have implemented joint fares on the MBTA, RIPTA, and the nearby MA bus systems SRTA and GATRA..

But this has not happened. Thus we welcome General Assembly legislation which seems needed to promote the fare integration called for. Thus I suggest H5105 be amended to simply say

**The RI General Assembly calls for RIDOT to work together with RIPTA, Amtrak, SRTA, and GATRA to carry out the fare integration as called for in Transit Forward RI, and report back on progress to the legislature by January 1, 2026..**

Again we thank the sponsors for their interest in this and the Committee for considering this suggestion

Barry Schiller  
for RI Transit Riders  
cc Patricia Raub, co-chair RITR