

April 7, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Honorable Members
Of the House Committee on Corporations:

RE: House Bill 7138: Enabling RIPTA to work with the MBTA

I write to you today in support of House Bill 7138, which would empower RIPTA to collaborate with the MBTA for the purpose of enhancing existing passes so that they could work on both transit systems. House Bill 7138 takes a meaningful step toward making transit access between Boston and Providence seamless by exploring whether MBTA commuter rail passes could also be honored on RIPTA buses.

I have lived in Rhode Island since 2003, and have actively used RIPTA both during my working years and since I retired. In that time, I have found numerous occasions when I needed to travel to Boston for medical appointments, to take an international flight, or to attend an event. I used the MBTA Commuter Rail for that purpose not only because it was convenient and affordable, but also because it was predictable and safe, and removed the pressure of having to drive in heavy traffic. Many older adults like me rely on public transportation once driving becomes difficult, expensive, or unsafe. A large number of us will have medical appointments in Boston, especially for consulting with specialists or accessing Veterans' services and/or follow up care. We may also choose to use the MBTA Commuter Rail to go to concerts, get together with family and friends, travel to Logan Airport for flights to destinations not served by T. F. Greene, or to attend a Patriot's game in Foxboro.

H.B. 7138, by removing unnecessary barriers to interstate travel between Rhode Island and Massachusetts, would thus support the capacity of older adults to age with independence and dignity, and deter the isolation from which so many of us suffer as we age. Integrated transit systems make it easier to reach appointments without missed connections or unaffordable transfers, and lead to less stress, better health outcomes and reduced emergency care costs. Public transit also enables seniors to remain connected to family, participate in volunteer activities, and attend community events. By simplifying travel across systems, H.B. 7138 would help older adults remain active, engaged, and visible in their communities.

For all of these reasons, I fully support H.B. 7138.

Sincerely yours,

Holly Snyder
Co-lead, AARP RI Livable Communities Team
69C Nipmuc Trail
North Providence, RI 02904