

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2026 12:45 PM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** support for H7138 with suggested amendment

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Dear House Corporations Committee

This is Barry Schiller writing on behalf of RI Transit Riders to support bill H7138 about encouraging transit fare integration. We do suggest it be amended to what we think would be more useful so it reads

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation is directed to consult with RIPTA, Amtrak, and adjacent bus systems in Fall River and Attleboro to carry out fare integration of those systems as called for in Transit Forward RI, and report back on progress to the General Assembly by January 1, 2027.

Here is why.

RI Transit riders supports fare integration between various public transport systems, especially as there is both bus and rail services at Wickford Jct, TF Green, Providence, and Pawtucket- Central Falls, services that could complement each other more conveniently if a fare product could be used on whichever system best meets the riders need. RI recognized the usefulness of such fare integration when it adopted the plan "Transit Forward RI" in December 2020 -see

<https://www.ripta.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/TFRI-Recs-Briefing-Book-Final-201230.pdf>

The plan 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. (as is the Warwick and Wickford Jct stations)

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 suggest the legislation as proposed above which would have some teeth in that it calls for a progress report given to the legislature. est wishes,

Since RIDOT is in charge of supervising all rail matters in RI, and its Director is Chair of the RIPTA Board, it seems fitting that RIDOT be given the responsibility for carrying out the proposed legislation.

We thank the sponsor for his interest in improving conditions for transit riders, and the Committee for its attention to our views.

Barry Schiller  
for RI Transit Riders

cc Amy Glidden, chair, RI Transit Riders