

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Eleanor Tutt, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Representative Morales' H5405. This act would allocate the current rideshare tax to fund RIPTA and ensure another sustainable funding stream in the future.

I do not have access to a car, and therefore I personally rely on RIPTA for the vast majority of my transportation needs. There are occasionally times when I feel that, despite the added expense, I have no choice but to use a rideshare service such as Uber or Lyft. For example, some RIPTA routes I rely on only run every 30-40 minutes, and if I unexpectedly miss the bus I intended to take, I risk being late to work or an appointment. However, when I do use a rideshare service, it is a strain on my budget while also increasing vehicle congestion and emissions. Essentially, the times that I do pay for a rideshare service, I wish I were able to ride RIPTA instead - so I would feel much better knowing that at least the rideshare tax was being allocated to RIPTA to help fund future and current services for myself and for other Rhode Island residents who have lower incomes than I do.

I appreciate that H5405 is a simple solution to diversify funding streams to RIPTA. It would not rely on the federal government or declining gas tax revenue, and will not only help RIPTA achieve financial stability, but allow for the expansion of service to meet the needs of a growing population that requires access to the affordable and sustainable travel option that public transit provides.

I urge you to support H5405, to give public transit the funding it needs to expand service, attract new riders, and get working people where they need to go, affordably and safely.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Tutt
148 Broadway #2F
Providence, RI 02903