

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Kenny Uong, I live in Providence, and I would like to express my support for Representative Morales' Bill H5405. This legislation would allocate the current rideshare tax to fund RIPTA, securing vital resources for the agency while establishing a sustainable funding stream for the future.

As a transit rider and advocate, I am relying on you to support a straightforward solution for increasing RIPTA's revenue: redirecting sales tax from rides taken on Uber and Lyft, rideshare services that directly undermine public transit. By securing new, diverse funding sources that are not dependent on federal aid or declining gas tax revenue, we can achieve financial stability while expanding services to meet the growing demand for affordable and sustainable transit options.

For instance, increased funding could help RIPTA expand its late-night service. Earlier this year, the City of Providence released a report on its nighttime economy, highlighting that nightlife workers and employees in industries like healthcare often lack safe, reliable transit options—since only a few RIPTA routes operate after 10 PM or midnight. Rideshare services can't replace real transit infrastructure—especially in dense cities like Providence, where public transportation is more cost-effective and efficient.

I strongly urge the House Finance Committee to support H5405. This bill will secure a dedicated funding source for RIPTA, enabling the agency to enhance and expand services, attract new riders, and ensure that Rhode Islanders have access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable transportation across the region.

Thank you,

Kenny Uong  
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