

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Mike Eng, I live in Cranston, 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. My wife and I share a single car, and I rode RIPTA daily to take my son to preschool. I still ride it weekly to take him to and from activities and get to appointments across the state. My wife will take RIPTA to work if I need to take the car for some reason. I bought my house partly because of its proximity to a major RIPTA route. I'm committed to combating climate change, and RIPTA is a big part of making sustainable transportation possible in the state. We need to ensure service is reliable. Rideshare services contribute to the problem of traffic congestion, which is exactly what we don't need in this time during the 195 bridge closure. They are part of the mix of serving transportation needs but also should be part of funding public transit.

Mike Eng

As a transit rider and supporter, I am relying on you to support this simple solution for increasing revenue for RIPTA by diverting sales tax from rides taken on Uber and Lyft, modes that are actively hurting public transit. Securing new and diverse funding streams that do not rely on the federal government or declining gas tax revenue will not only 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,

Cranston, RI