

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Peter Brassard, I am writing in support of Representative Morales' House bill H5405.

This act would allocate the current ride-share tax to fund RIPTA and ensure another sustainable funding stream in the future.

RIPTA's transit service is an essential and integral part of the state's economy. Tens of thousands of Rhode Island residents and visitors, which includes workers at all economic levels, low income residents, the elderly, students, and visitors rely on RIPTA for transportation. There's a strong interface of bus transit with rail services as last mile connections.

As a transit rider and advocate, 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,

Peter Brassard

Chair, Rhode Island Association of Railroad Passengers
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