



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903
VIA EMAIL - HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

RE: Support of Transit Funding Bills H-6020, H-5470, H-5468, H-5467 and H-5405

Michael L. Friedman
Board Chair

Scott Wolf
Executive Director

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Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of Grow Smart RI, I write in support of **H-6020** (\$32.5M appropriation - Alzate), **H-5470** (Transit Master Plan Bond Referendum - Tanzi), **H-5468** (Gas tax inflation adjustment - Tanzi), **H-5467** (30% gas tax proceeds to RIPTA - Stewart) and **H-5405** (Rideshare sales tax reallocation - Morales).

Grow Smart RI is Rhode Island's statewide smart growth advocacy organization. We represent a big-tent coalition of business and civic leaders and community stakeholders committed to strengthening and growing Rhode Island's economy in a sustainable and equitable way. We work with community partners across the state to integrate smart land use, transportation and housing policies in a way that uses resources most efficiently and that creates thriving, vibrant and opportunity rich places.

The continued lack of predictable and sustainable funding for RIPTA has meant that stakeholders must mobilize each year to just advocate against disruptive service cuts in order to get to work, school, and to access all of life's other essentials. We can do better.

Across the country, cities and states are investing in better transit and walkable communities as leaders position their cities and states to compete for young talent in a rapidly changing economy. In 2024, [51 cities or metro regions passed ballot measures](#) to improve their public transit systems. And here at home, you may have read that Hasbro is prioritizing 'convenient access to public transit' when considering a future location that will help them attract and retain talent.

This we know: Quality public transit systems boost economic development, help to accelerate location-efficient housing production, ease traffic congestion, climate pollution, and improve public health, all while reducing the cost of living for residents by saving them money on the second-highest household expense - Transportation.

We believe each of these proposals are rational and responsible and we encourage you to support these investments in Rhode Island's future.

Thank you for your continued public service.

Sincerely,

John Flaherty
Deputy Director