



May 21, 2025

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
RI House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Committee members,

My name is Lane Sparkman. I live in Providence and have been a frequent user of the RIPTA 60 for 20+ years. I recently joined SWAP (Stop Wasting Abandoned Property) and am writing on their behalf as well as my own in support of several upcoming transit bills: H6020, H5405, H5470, H5467, and H5468. Together these bills will help alleviate the current crisis facing our state's public transit system and prepare it for a functional, successful future.

SWAP builds homes for sale and rental to low-to-moderate income Rhode Islanders, many of whom rely on public transit to live their daily lives. RIPTA's current funding shortfall may lead to service cuts, fare hikes, or reduced operational hours, all of which will negatively impact the communities we serve. H6020 addresses this by making up the shortfall this year; however, this bill alone will not solve Rhode Island's transit challenges. People utilizing public transit need to be able to do so safely. This includes protected, dry places to wait for a bus; clear, safe access to and from bus stops; and more options for multi-modal travelers. H5470 will address these issues, improving the ridership experience for all who use public transit.

Finally, long-term financial stability is critical to making public transit a reliable resource for Rhode Islanders. H5405, H5467, and H5458 offer reasonable, small-scale solutions that together will have a substantial, positive impact on RIPTA's bottom line.

SWAP's clients are among the most cost-burdened Rhode Islanders. Many depend on public transit to get to and from work, and to support other daily needs. Please help them on their pathways to success by ensuring that they have access to safe and reliable public transportation.

Please vote yes on H6020, H5405, H5470, H5467, and H5468. They make sense individually, and they make even more sense as a package.

Sincerely,

Lane Sparkman
Community Liaison