

SAVE RIPTA

May 21st, 2025
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903
RE: Support H5467

Dear Chair Abney and Committee Members,

The Save RIPTA Coalition would like to extend its support of Representative Stewart's bill H5467. This bill would extend through 2025 the allocation of motor fuel tax to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Fund. It would also change the allocation to thirty percent (30%) of the total proceeds, including thirty percent (30%) derived from the one cent (\$0.01) per gallon environmental protection fee pursuant to § 46-12.9-11 through 2026 and thereafter.

The Save RIPTA Coalition is a broad coalition of community organizations, labor unions, legislative champions and everyday Rhode Islanders who call upon our state to save and expand the capacity of RIPTA to get Rhode Islanders where they need to go with affordable, convenient, environmentally responsible and reliable public transit.

RIPTA's current funding is closely tied to the state's gasoline tax, which allocates 9.75 cents per gallon to public transit. However, this allocation has not kept pace with the overall increase in the gas tax, which has risen from 32.5 cents to 38 cents per gallon, including an environmental fee. If RIPTA had maintained its previous 30% share of total gas tax revenue, it would be receiving an additional \$7 million annually—resources that would make a real difference in ensuring reliable, equitable public transit services across the state.

By adding an additional penny per gallon to the gas tax starting next year, we could provide RIPTA with an extra \$1.3 million annually—resources that could be reinvested in better services, expanded routes, and improved infrastructure.

I strongly urge the House Finance Committee to support H5467, to ensure RIPTA is given a fair share of the Motor Fuel Tax and support the riders who rely on the service and take decisive action in supporting public transit as a critical part of Rhode Island's future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole O'Loughlin and members of the Save RIPTA Coalition