

Greetings,

My name is Dan Brogan and I am a Senior Public Transit Specialist with SRPEDD, which is the bordering Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to Rhode Island, and I am a resident of Providence Rhode Island. I am writing as an individual and not in an official capacity of SRPEDD.

Public transit defines who gets to have mobility and participate in society, and the potential fiscal cliff RIPTA is facing would be devastating to many people in the state of Rhode Island, as well as Massachusetts with the likely cut to the 24L, which serves Fall River, a city of 100,000 people that is part of the Providence Metropolitan area. [21% of Adults in the United States delay necessary healthcare due to transit barriers](#), and defunding RIPTA is effectively defunding people's access to healthcare, access to employment, recreation, school, and many other provisions that make for a fulfilling life.

Without public transit in my own life, I would have had to drop out of graduate school. My car and bike were stolen and if I didn't live next to a bus route in the Twin Cities that ran every 10 minutes, I would have had to drop out. Growing up, my single-parent Mom took us up to Boston using public transit so my siblings could get affordable dental care. Without public transit, I would have lost considerable face time with my family on these trips. Public transit is profoundly important to our neighbors and our state.

Defunding public transit in the heart of a megalopolis and smallest state in the country will greatly inhibit people's livelihoods. To defund public transit during a Climate Crisis is irresponsible for our communities today, and for our children tomorrow. Cutting routes like the 24L will make it impossible to access a significant part of the Providence Metropolitan area, which would be disruptive to accessing civilian and veteran healthcare. On the Massachusetts side, nearly every regional transit authority is running fare-free for the foreseeable future, and Connecticut is looking to extend the Shore Line East into Rhode Island. On the other hand, there is an opportunity for RIPTA to be maintained and well funded to provide vital local and regional connections, or our state may become a transit island amidst much more competitive and convenient transit modes that could lead to people leaving the state and/or being forced to relocate.

I implore you to find any possible avenue to fund public transit. It is the bedrock of our society and is vital to social cohesion, healthcare, education, public health, employment. Defunding public transit will adversely impact our most maligned community members, including the Disability community, as well as people who are economically disadvantaged, experiencing homelessness, our older neighbors, and our youth. I thank you for your time and hope we can continue funding public transit.

In Community,
Dan Brogan

Dan Brogan (*He/Him*)
Doctoral Candidate, Education Policy & Leadership
University of Minnesota
brog028@umn.edu
508-685-6178