

Chris O'Brien

From: Kristen Quaedvlieg <whofan905@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:37 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE RIPTA

Dear Representative(s),
You have heard all the reasons why riders need RIPTA.

Work
Medical Appointments
Shopping
Grocery shopping
Social situations
Church
Economic situation
Environmental Impact
Being disabled
Etc....

I don't drive. I have been taking RIPTA all my adult life, 45 years. I would say I'm a seasoned rider. Granted, sometimes it's not very easy to get around. I know how to make it work for me.

I take RIPTA to work. Just the cost alone helps. If I were to Uber/Lyft to work it would be \$13 per trip, including tip. Mind you that price can fluctuate, usually higher. So that's \$26 dollars a day, \$130 a week, \$520 a month. Keep in mind some people pay much more than that, depending on where they work. And that's just to get to and from work.

I also take RIPTA to medical appointments. Again the cost alone is better than Rideshare.
I also have become friendly with my regular drivers.

Rhode Island is the smallest state, we should have the best transit system. It's already great because it serves the whole state. But of course it could be improved.

I understand the difficulties RIPTA faces; money, low ridership, etc. That doesn't go unnoticed. Seems like lately, every few months, there's a SAVE RIPTA campaign happening to save RIPTA from route cutbacks / eliminations and defunding.

I just don't understand how you can't make this work. I don't know if there's anything that hasn't already been said. We need RIPTA, so riders (of all reasons) can continue to live and get to where they need to go. So many people rely on RIPTA. Just make it work.

Sincerely,
Kristen Quaedvlieg
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