



Memo To: House Finance Committee

From: Angela Lima, Chief of Government Relations, Women's Fund of Rhode Island

Date: Mar 9, 2026

Concerns: **SUPPORT FOR H-6090**

**We at the Women's Fund of Rhode Island stand in support Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised and Capital Budgets and ask Rhode Island Public Transit gets more funding as it is crucial way to improve congestion, reduce emissions, and increase Rhode Island's competitiveness as a business-friendly destination.**

Women make up 51% of the population in the state of Rhode Island and economic insecurity is at the root cause of many problems women and girls face in Rhode Island. Transportation is crucial for women because it directly impacts their access to education, employment, healthcare, and social opportunities, which are often limited by concerns about safety and accessibility on public transit, particularly when considering factors like frequent short trips for childcare or errands; essentially, safe and reliable transportation empowers women to participate fully in society and the economy.

Public transit is a gender equity issue. Women—particularly women of color, low-income women, and single mothers—are more likely to rely on transit to access work, childcare, health care, and education. When transit service is reduced or unreliable, it disproportionately affects women's ability to participate fully in the workforce and support their families.

Many women also rely on transit for what transportation planners call "trip chaining"—making multiple stops in a single trip, such as dropping off children at school, commuting to work, and running errands. Reliable and frequent bus service is essential to making these daily responsibilities manageable.

Funding cuts have led to service reductions that have created additional barriers for working families and undermine economic mobility. Investing in RIPTA helps ensure that Rhode Islanders—especially women and caregivers—can access opportunity, maintain employment, and remain connected to their communities.

Sustained investment in public transit is an investment in economic security, workforce participation, and gender equity across our state.

I respectfully urge the committee to support increased and sustainable funding for RIPTA.

Thank you for your consideration.

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The mission of the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island is to invest in women and girls through advocacy, research, and strategic partnership designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change. Our [Women’s Well-Being Index](#) compares how well women fare against men on topics related to health, safety, economic security, education and civic participation in every RI city/town. Our [policy briefs](#) are written in response to the data found on the Index. You can find more about our work at [www.wfri.org](http://www.wfri.org).