

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Committee members,

My name is Greg Miller, I live in East Providence, and I am here/writing in support of Bill H7127 funding the RIPTA budget and urging you to support the restoration of funding for RIPTA by undoing the service cuts. A CCRI and Johnson & Wales University alumn, I've used RIPTA for everything from commuting to work in Boston to attending trade events in Downtown Providence.

As a transit rider and supporter, I am relying on you to support this bill which provides level funding for RIPTA at its current reduced size, and implore you to support increased funding to reverse the devastating service cuts in 2025. High quality public transportation in Rhode Island should be a no-brainer, with our compact size and abundance of destinations, getting around the state by bus is something everyone should be able to do, and an obvious investment in a public good. In today's economy, cities and states with robust transit-oriented transportation generate and absorb the lions' share of private investment within the local economy, and Rhode Island's backbone for supporting shift workers such as nurses and other healthcare providers has been RIPTA.

A recent report from the American Public Transit Authority confirmed what most of us already know: for every \$1 billion invested in public transportation, \$5 billion is generated in long-term economic value and supports jobs nationwide. That job support works out to \$3.1 billion in earned wages for every \$1 billion invested in public transit, according to the report. I encourage you to read the report: <https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA-Economic-Impact-of-Public-Transportation-022026.pdf>

Furthermore, with the closure of the Washington Bridge highlighting the dangers of our dependency on personal vehicle travel. Integrating RIPTA with other transit modes will be essential to cutting congestion that often ties up emergency responders.

I urge you to support the funding for RIPTA in the Governor's Budget, H7127 and to advocate for the restoration of funding that resulted in devastating service cuts this fall. Fully funding RIPTA is an investment that will give many returns: access to reliable and

affordable transportation, economic growth including for our fast-growing tourism industry and access to jobs and services, drastic reductions in carbon emissions and traffic on the road, and so many more.

I urge you to support H7127 and increase funding for RIPTA.

Sincerely,