

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Ian Westcott, I live in the Elmhurst neighborhood of Providence (House District 6) and I am writing to **support H7127** to allocate more funding for RIPTA.

I regularly use RIPTA to commute and run errands throughout Providence. The cuts to RIPTA's budget in September 2025 negatively impacted my ability to rely on bus service to get to work, my son's daycare, and other appointments. Any further reductions in service would make RIPTA completely unusable for me.

That is why I am supportive of the full budgetary funding, including the \$13.8M in the Governor's FY2027 budget to close RIPTA budget deficit I also urge you to **support Rep. Alzate's H8256** to increase funding by \$5 million to return RIPTA to pre-September 2025 levels.

Transit is an economic engine, not a drain on public resources. A recent report from the American Public Transit Authority confirmed that 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>

More frequent bus service is necessary to support Rhode Islanders of all abilities and economic strata. That is why I **support H7127** to allocate more funding for RIPTA.

Thank you for your time and for all that you do for the people of Rhode Island.

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Ian Westcott

7 Lotus Pl

Providence, RI 02908

iandwestcott@gmail.com

(401) 954-9506

<https://ianw.org/>