

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Committee members,

My name is Kit Miklik, I live on Hope Street in Providence, and I write in strong support of H7127 and the full \$13.8 million budget allocation to close RIPTA's deficit. I urge you to read this entire email because it was written by an expert, not AI.

I served as the Director of Digital Transformation for the MBTA and have spent over 20 years working in the public sector. I know what it takes to sustain public transit, and I know what it looks like when a system is being slowly defunded into an irreversible crisis. We are at the tipping point of that crisis right now, but you can still prevent it from happening. I urge you to support not just H7127, but also Rep. Alzate's H8256 to restore the additional \$5 million that would return RIPTA to September 2025 service levels. Unfortunately, level funding is not recovery. It is managed decline.

A recent APTA report confirmed what transit advocates have long argued: every \$1 billion invested in public transportation generates \$5 billion in long-term economic value and \$3.1 billion in wages. Funding RIPTA is a smart investment in working Rhode Islanders, in local businesses, in economic mobility, and in our climate future.

From a personal perspective, my family are a single-car household in Rhode Island, and we rely on the Route 1 bus to get to work and school, to cheer on the RIFC and catch local performances, and to attend community events at local small businesses and libraries, including community events I organize myself (which more than 60% of surveyed attendees rely on RIPTA to attend.) RIPTA is not a convenience for us; it is infrastructure.

On behalf of my family and neighbors, I urge you to support H7127 and increased funding for RIPTA.

Sincerely,

Kit Miklik

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Kit Miklik (they/them)

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time zone - Eastern Time

I honor and respect boundaries around personal time, caretaking, and rest. I may be working at a time that works for me but not for you, so please protect your time and wait to respond until you're next working. Let's prioritize joy, not email, when and where we can!