

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

The proposed FY2027 budget includes repealing the two-cent gas tax increase enacted in the previous fiscal year. In its place, the Governor proposes increasing funding in the Highway Maintenance Account by \$9.3 million; adding \$3.5 million in capital-plan funding for bus purchases; and adding another \$1 million in additional cruise operator fees.

- When RIPTA's services are poor, this disproportionately impacts low-wage workers, communities of color, people with disabilities, and senior Rhode Islanders.
- Support full budgetary funding, including the \$13.8M in the Governor's FY2027 proposed budget to close RIPTA budget deficit.
- Support Rep. Alzate's H8256 to increase funding by \$5 million to return RIPTA to September 2025 levels.
- According to the a recent report from the American Public Transit Authority, every \$1 billion invested in public transit generates about \$5 billion in long-term economic value and \$3.1 billion in wages.

The poor and working class of RI rely on RIPTA — for all its flaws — and we cannot keep expecting them to shoulder the cost burdens of the State while the wealthy do not pay their fair share. Please stand up for those who utilize the life line of public transportation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Shanna Sedgwick

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