

To: House Finance Subcommittee on Environment & Transportation, Rep. Terri Cortvriend,
Chair

From: Valerie Reishuk

Subject: SUPPORT for H7127 - \$13.8 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA Deficit

Date: 3/10/2026

Chair Cortvriend and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Reishuk, I live in Providence, and I am writing in SUPPORT of H7127 funding the RIPTA budget. I urge the Committee to continue the work of the House in seeking sustainable funding for RIPTA, and in restoring services previously eliminated as suggested in Rep Alzate's bill H8256. I recommend all RIPTA funding measures put forward in Governor Dan McKee's budget and in the H7127 bill.

As a transit rider and walker, I have been car-free for ten years. Providence Planning Department disclosed US Census data (as part of their Comprehensive Plan) that I am part of a large group of Providencians who identify as car-light or car-free. Public transit is a vital part of our lives. By traveling on bus, bikes, scooters and walking, we alleviate car traffic measurably. This behavior can be encouraged by funding frequent and reliable transit. We can achieve new housing goals here when we have enough transit, and we don't need new parking spaces.

My personal decision to retire from teaching in Ohio and to make Providence my new home was based partly on the availability of transit and affordable apartment rentals. With every year that passes, there are more challenges. I ask Rep Scott Slater, and my own House Rep, Maj Ldr Chris Blazejewski, to center the needs of car-free Providencians when deliberating about RIPTA funding. I recognize the mobility needs of all Ocean Staters, but Providence deserves special attention because so many riders reside here.

I want to express my gratitude to all of the House members who have supported riders on the House floor, in Committees, and on their social media accounts. I feel seen.

I urge you to support the Governor's suggested RIPTA funding, and H7127, and increased funding to restore RIPTA cuts.

Sincerely,

Valerie Reishuk
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