

**Testimony in support of H8145: State Funds—Ride-Share for RIPTA**

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

RIPTA has been chronically underfunded, resulting in service cuts which create hardships for those who don't own a car and depend on RIPTA to get to work, and in undermining the attractiveness of public transportation in Rhode Island in general.

We urgently need to fund RIPTA to

- become a modern means to get around in the State, so attractive that RIPTA becomes an alternative to individual (car) transportation,
- to implement the Transit Forward RI Master Plan, which was adopted by the State Planning Council on December 10, 2020, as a bold and ambitious plan designed to help make Rhode Island a better and more prosperous place to live, work, and play,
- and to reach the decarbonization mandates of the Act on Climate—which we can't without attractive public transportation.

With this in mind, I support all bills in this years' Legislature that increase funding for RIPTA, including

- S2095, Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011, giving 20% of proceeds in Rhode Island's highway maintenance account to RIPTA,
- S2825/H8256, Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority,
- S2668/H8315, Motor Fuel Sales Tax, with \$0.1175 per gallon, or 29.375 of total proceeds for RIPTA,
- S2092, Rideshare or Transportation Network Company Vehicle Surcharge, with \$ 0.75 per fare for RIPTA,
- S3084, Liability and Computation, creating a restricted receipt account for RIPTA to fund its operations from sales tax collected from rideshare companies,
- **H8145/S3133, State Funds / Liability and Computation, creating a restricted receipt account for RIPTA to fund its operations from sales tax collected from rideshare companies.**

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Stewart for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

Apr 14, 2026

71 Fales Avenue  
Barrington, RI 02806; (203) 687-6415; [clclt17@mac.com](mailto:clclt17@mac.com)