

Dear Chair Abney and Committee members,

My name is Amber, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill H8178.

My husband and I made the decision to go car-free in 2022, a choice that has been made possible largely by the services provided by RIPTA. Relying on public transit has allowed us to significantly reduce our household expenses, effectively reallocating those savings back into the local Providence economy. Beyond the financial benefits, using RIPTA is a tangible way for us to reduce our carbon footprint and ease the traffic burden on our community's infrastructure.

In comparison to federal standards, Rhode Island's Highway Maintenance Account (HMA) shortchanges RIPTA. An 80/20 split for surface transportation funding between highways and mass transit has been the standard in Congress since 1982, yet Rhode Island practices a 90/10 split. RIPTA needs a larger and more predictable state funding source in order to thrive.

As a transit rider and supporter, I am relying on you to support this simple solution for increasing revenue and ridership for RIPTA. Securing funding streams that do not rely on the federal government or declining gas tax revenue will not only achieve financial stability, but allow for the expansion of service to meet the needs of a growing population that requires access to the affordable and sustainable travel option that public transit provides.

I urge you to support Representative Cortvriend's H8178 to increase revenue for RIPTA, giving Rhode Island residents better access to affordable transportation and providing sustainable funding for public transit to thrive.

Sincerely,

Amber Ma

130 Ford Street

Providence

