

Testimony in support of H8178: Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011

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/H8178, 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,
- S3133, Liability and Computation, creating a restricted receipt account for RIPTA to fund its operations from sales tax collected from rideshare companies.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2026. Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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