



Rhode Island Organizing Project
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Providence, RI 02903
401.351.5577

TO: House Finance Committee
SUBJECT: SUPPORT (H8178) – Highway Maintenance Account Increase
Via Email: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Dear Chair Abney and Committee members,

My name is Raymond Gagne, and I am writing in my capacity as the Director of the RI Organizing Project (RIOP). I am writing in support of H8178.

The Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP) has been working on transportation issues for the past ten years. RIOP works primarily with low-income elders and adults with disabilities who rely on RIPTA for their daily transportation needs. In our on-going outreach bus riders have expressed a strong interest in RIPTA expanding its services. Bus riders tell us they would like to see RIPTA expand night and weekend service, create new bus routes in underserved areas, and create more rapid bus lines like the R Line.

I will be difficult for RIPTA to stabilize its existing operations and expand its services without a more dependable source of revenue. Increasing RIPTA's share of the Highway Maintenance account in line with federal standards would help RIPTA meet the needs of existing customers and plan for future expansion.

I ask for your support for H8178. RIPTA is a valuable resource for the state of Rhode Island. RIPTA promotes economic development, reduces traffic congestion, and helps people who cannot afford a car to meet their daily transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Raymond R Gagne
Director
RI Organizing Project

