

Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Reishuk and I live in Providence. Majority Leader Blazewski is my Representative. I write today in SUPPORT of H8178, Rep Cortvriend's bill to Increase RIPTA's Share of the Highway Maintenance Account to 20%.

I am a car-free Providence senior citizen, and a volunteer with RI Transit Riders. General Assembly members who care deeply about the welfare of riders (like me!) have recommended that we repair the erosion of RIPTA funding. This solution is my favorite.

Rhode Island is a densely-populated state with admirable housing goals. As we build affordable units in Providence and other transit-accessible locations, we need to fund frequent & reliable bus service, which runs during the hours when riders need service. Other states with our density use this 80/20 split between the DOT and the transit agency to ensure reliable service.

Let me express my gratitude to The Speaker, Leader Blazewski, Deputy Speaker Hull, Chair Abney and all of the House public transit bill sponsors. You see me, you understand the housing-transit connection, and you consistently work with our RI Transit Rider advocates to find permanent funding solutions for RIPTA. I trust you to restore RIPTA funding and to plan for the future of RI transit.

Honorable Members of the Committee, please send H8178 Highway Maintenance Share along in the budget process with a recommendation for passage.

Thank you,  
Val

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