



April 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2026- House Bill No. 8179, House Bill No. 8206, House Bill No. 8315, House Bill No. 8369, House Resolution No. 8317

Dear Chairman Abney:

A year ago, RIPTA projected a budget deficit of over \$30 million for FY 2026. Through a combination of cost saving measures, increased state funding, and implementation of recommendations from the efficiency study to increase revenue and reduce lower performing routes, we were able to balance the budget for FY 2026.

At the conclusion of that process our projected deficit for FY 2027 was \$13.8 million. We are thankful to Governor McKee for proposing several measures to fully fund RIPTA for FY 2027, recognizing the essential role public transit plays in Rhode Island's economy and quality of life.

At RIPTA, our mission is clear: to provide safe, reliable, and accessible mobility for every Rhode Islander. Public transit connects people to jobs, education, healthcare, and the opportunities that shape daily life. We continue to strengthen these connections by focusing on service reliability, enhancing customer experience, investing in infrastructure, increasing our sustainability efforts and introducing innovative programs that expand access to transit across the state.

While we acknowledge the proposals that are currently up for consideration, we have full faith that the General Assembly will find the appropriate path to provide a continued revenue stream that fully funds the Agency, allowing us to continue building on our current wave of momentum and deliver a transit system that supports economic growth, workforce access and mobility for all Rhode Islanders.

On behalf of our staff and our riders, I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CDurand", is positioned above the printed name.

Christopher Durand
Chief Executive Officer