

Chairman Abney and Honorable Committee members,

I am writing to you in support of H8317, the \$5m budget allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

Since the service cuts went into effect, relying on RIPTA has become more challenging. Longer waits, overcrowded buses, and inconvenient transfers have made transit less reliable. Rhode Island's economy needs people moving. We need to fund RIPTA to expand its reach, ensuring that car-free living remains a viable, attractive choice.

I manage a young, part-time employee without a car who lives off of Hope St. Our office is located on Sims Ave. She cannot reliably get to the office via RIPTA. Instead she relies on ride share to get to and from work. The cost of this can be up to two hours of her hourly wage. Some days she clocks out but will sit in the office and work on her CCRI coursework while waiting for ride share surge pricing to drop during busy hours. Sometimes she waits nearly an hour and a half for the pricing to become feasible.

We need to make RIPTA service more reliable and far reaching so folks can access their jobs, support local businesses and restaurants, and attend events without a car.

I'm urging you to support H8317. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot meet the needs of a growing population that requires affordable and sustainable transportation, and RIPTA cannot grow to meet our climate, social justice, and economic goals.

Sincerely,

Shelby Adams
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