

Chris O'Brien

From: Winfield Swanson <winswanson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 12:31 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: SUPPORT (H8317) - \$5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA

Categories: Red category

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Dear Chair Abney and Hon. Members of the Finance Committee,

I write today in support of the following bills related to improving RIPTA:

- **H8317** JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY {LC6141/1}
- **H8178** AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT AND DEBT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011 {LC5429/1} (Effective July 1, 2026, annually allocates twenty percent (20%) of available proceeds in the Rhode Island highway maintenance account to RIPTA for operating expenses.)
- **H8202** JOINT RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION TO ISSUE BONDS RELATING TO CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM {LC5431/1} (Submits the state's 2026 capital development program requesting the issuance of general obligation bonds totaling one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) for approval of the electorate at the general election to be held in November, 2026.)

I live in the village of Matunuck in the town of South Kingstown, and I work as a rural carrier out of the Wakefield Post Office. Although I have a car, whenever I want to travel up to Providence (for leisure or for work-training at the Providence Post Office) I prefer to take the bus so that I do not personally have to navigate I95 nightmare traffic.

Before RIPTA's recent cuts, my bus route, number 66, ran every half-hour on weekdays, but now it runs every 45 minutes. In my experience, this is WORSE than when it used to run every 60 minutes! When the bus was hourly or half-hourly it was easy to memorize when the bus was supposed to leave from a specific stop, but a 45-minute interval produces unintuitive times that I have to continually look up, which is stressful and makes me think twice about even going to Providence in the first place!

There has been a lot of talk about 'right-sizing' RIPTA; in my opinion the right size for RIPTA is twice or even thrice its current size! There should be a bus between Westerly and Narragansett! And a bus between Narragansett and Newport!

I urge the committee and the whole general assembly to restore and expand funding for RIPTA.

Thank you,
Winfield S. Swanson
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