

Marygrace Heywood Larocque

From: Jordan Frank <jordanfrank@me.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 8:16 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: RIPTA's Budget Gap

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To: Senate Finance Committee

re: RIPTA Budget Gap

RIPTA and RIDOT are, jointly, the core of our transportation program in Rhode Island. Rather than separating them budgetarily, we should look at them jointly.

When you look at RIPTA's budget gap in the scope of RIPTA and RIDOT's \$1B Budget, this is an exercise of fighting over crumbs to operate one of our primary resources (RIPTA) here in Rhode Island.

What do we have roads for if not for people? And the movement of people over roads should certainly favor public and group transportation such as that provided by RIPTA.

In light of RIDOT's known inefficiency, it's not wrong to trim RIDOT's budget by \$5M to \$10M and let RIDOT figure out how to make the rest of the \$990M work more efficiently to meet the same needs, and do so with higher quality.

Another pool of money you *should* consider can be captured by winding down the Law Suit over the Bridge. What's the legal budget for this misdirected, and RIDOT related, project? This may involve settling law suits in both directions, but will save years of litigation and the enormous costs that will come with that process. It is said that involving a single person costed \$83,000? As you approach trial, the cost of experts and other litigation costs will easily stretch into the millions, and for what? The likelihood of winning when RIDOT itself is complicit in the failure is close to zero. Back out of the lawsuit, fund RIPTA.

Also, change RIPTA's name. Starting your Transport Authority with RIP is not a good look.

Jordan
95 President Ave
Providence, RI 02906