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**From:** Stevens McAleer <stevens.mcaleer@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2026 4:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Cc:** Sam Zurier  
**Subject:** Constituent comments on Governor's Budget and RIDOT AND RIPTA BUDGETS for FY 2027

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Following up on Senator Zurier's 3/29 District Letter regarding RIDOT and RIPTA FY 2027 Budgets (along with the Governor's proposed 2027 Budget), I would like to outline the following questions/points:

1. I question the Governor's budgeting assumptions especially level of federal funding which is a dominant source of state revenues and proposed issuance of \$600 million general obligation bonds on top of an already heavy debt burden coupled with significantly underfunded pensions & medical retirement benefits. How does the state senate get comfortable with the state's high leverage and debt burden?
2. When will the legislature authorize and fund the proposed RIDOT Efficiency Study? Before 7/1/26 when the new fiscal year begins? Presumably, this study will address the low comparative physical condition ratings of RI state roads and bridges AND the current reliance/dependence on outside consultants rather than on "in house" and objective civil engineers to assess the safety and physical condition of the states bridges and highways with the objective of preventing another avoidable Washington Bridge fiasco. Need hard factual analysis to justify a doubling of THE RIDOT BUDGET over the past 10 years. Is there political will to allocate motor fuel taxes and registration fees to address RIDOT's FY 2027 deficit and provide reliable long term funding support?
3. In my opinion, public transportation is essential for RI's economic future and consistent long term funding sources are crucial.

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Sent from my iPad