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From: Archana Ramanujam <a.ramanujam@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2095) - Highway Maintenance Account Increase

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Archana Ramanujam, I live in Providence, and I am here/writing in support of Bill S2095.

I use RIPTA multiple times a week to get to work, health appointments and social events. I rely on it, as my household has only one car, and I love using it. I often have to go to areas that have limited parking, making the bus the best choice. Additionally, RIPTA is usually less expensive and a greener way to get around. It reduces congestion, relieves the stress of driving, and makes streets safer for everyone by reducing cars and reckless drivers on the road. The service also helps the city and state meet their climate goals by reducing carbon emissions.

In comparison to federal standards, Rhode Island's Highway Maintenance Account (HMA) shortchanges RIPTA. An 80/20 split for surface transportation funding between highways and mass transit has been the standard in Congress since 1982, yet Rhode Island practices a 90/10 split. RIPTA needs a larger and more predictable state funding source in order to thrive.

As a transit rider and supporter, I am relying on you to support this simple solution for increasing revenue and ridership for RIPTA. Securing funding streams that do not rely on the federal government or declining gas tax revenue will not only achieve financial stability, but allow for the expansion of service to meet the needs of a growing population that requires access to the affordable and sustainable travel option that public transit provides.

I urge you to support S2095 to increase revenue for RIPTA, giving Rhode Island residents better access to affordable transportation and providing sustainable funding for public transit to thrive.

Sincerely,

Archana Ramanujam
156 9th St