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From: Katie Stewart <stewart.kathryn.r@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 9:24 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2095) - Highway Maintenance Account Increase

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Stewart, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill S2095.

I am a regular RIPTA rider, primarily on the #1 route, and it has been notable to me how degraded the service has become since the funding cuts in 2025. Bus times are much less reliable and the buses are much more overcrowded than they once were.

In addition to the immediate problems created by the 2025 cuts, RIPTA has been consistently underfunded by the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance Account. 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.

The 2025 operational efficiency study mandated by the General Assembly found RIPTA to be highly efficient and operating in line with peer agencies. RIPTA has been shown to manage its money well, and it is a shame that it has been so poorly funded over the years.

Rhode Island is facing the climate crisis. Public transportation is a necessary and effective tool for reducing pollution and carbon emissions, with the added positive impact of calming traffic. A fair and equitable model for funding RIPTA is a must in order to achieve a high quality of life in our state.

I urge you to support S2095.

All the best,
Katie Stewart
15 Hart Street, Providence