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**From:** Nick Rutter <nickrutter0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2026 2:18 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** SUPPORT, S2095, - Highway Maintenance Account Increase

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Nick Rutter, I live in Smithfield, and I am here/writing in support of Bill S2095. As a lifetime suburban dweller, having access to transit where I live is an incredible way to overcome the feelings of isolation that come with increased amounts of space between people, amenities, necessities and nature. RIPTA's vast network makes Rhode Island simultaneously feel its size but also so much bigger, without being tethered to ubiquitous freeways, parking lots, strip malls and traffic congestion. I would hope that the second densest state in the Union would be able to prioritize an effective transit network to minimize costs on road maintenance and construction, however it seems we leveraged our small size in the opposite direction. Rhode Island's Highway Maintenance Account takes the lion's share of funding - 90 percent, leaving RIPTA with 10, a deviation from the 80/20 standard established by Congress in 1982. This discrepancy is a large part of RIPTA's perpetual deficits as [despite financial performance on par or better than similar sized agencies](#), they have not been privvy to the same share of the funding. Mass transit is the cheapest, safest and most effective way to move people, reducing congestion, wear and need to perpetually expand and repair highway infrastructure.

RIPTA deserves to have its funds reflect its performance and to have the opportunity to further succeed and expand for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders and to better utilize and maintain our existing highway infrastructure. Please support S2095 to actually right-size RIPTA and fully utilize our density to our benefit.

Sincerely,  
Nick Rutter  
12 Howard Street  
Smithfield, RI  
02917