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From: Scott Callas <scott.callas@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 12:13 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2095) - Highway Maintenance Account Increase

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Scott Callas. I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill S2095. Public transportation is foundational to a society that gives its residents freedom of movement, sets itself up for sustainable growth, and structures itself to be economically resilient. It further allows us to rely on something we own and control as a people, rather than being beholden to the oil and automotive behemoths.

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,

Scott Callas
74 Yorkshire St, Providence, RI