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From: Susan Marcus <marcus.susan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:32 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2095) - Highway Maintenance Account Increase

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Susan Marcus. I live in South Kingstown. I am writing in support of Bill S2095.

I am retired from a career in economic development in an international organization. I would like to see Rhode Island legislators take advantage of the economic opportunities afforded by investing sustainably in public transit, something they currently neglect. Transit investment is more efficient at job creation than other infrastructure spending. Transit projects produced more jobs per dollar than road projects. It distributes economic benefits more broadly across the labor market than the more materials-intensive work of road building. This bill acknowledges that public transit deserves a greater percentage of the monies spent on highways as a mechanism for long-term funding.

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,

Susan Marcus
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Wakefield, RI 02879

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<http://meadowrestoration.wordpress.com>