

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Valerie Reishuk and I live in Providence. I am writing *in support of S2095*, Sen. Zurier's Highway Maintenance Account apportionment bill.

As a car-free Providence woman, I am not an outlier. Most households in my Ward are car-light or car-free. There is no room for cars. We pay half our income in rent. There is no money for cars. We need buses.

One of the reasons my bus doesn't arrive frequently on weekdays, and even less frequently on weekends, is because service cuts were necessary due to weak funding of public transit in Rhode Island. While I appreciate RIDOT for maintaining and repairing our roads and bridges, I believe we need operational dollars spent on RIPTA, as well.

The current 90/10 split between RIDOT and RIPTA in the Highway Maintenance Account is typical for less densely-populated states. We need to modify this to 80/20, and keep an eye on this proportion as the density of the northeast quadrant of the state rises.

Here's the difficult part: As I ask this committee *to pass bill S2095 out of committee* and into the budget process, I know that opposition to the bill may come from leadership, not from Senators on the floor. The next part is up to me. I promise you, I will pursue this matter beyond your committee. Never underestimate the irritability of a retired teacher who is not employed as a lobbyist. Especially if she has been a registered Democrat for 52 years, and she knows that Ocean Staters need the bus option.

Respectfully,

Val Reishuk  
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