

SAVE RIPTA

PVDStreets.org/Save-RIPTA

April 2nd, 2026
Senate Committee on Finance
RE: Support S2813

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee Members,

I am writing today on behalf of the 32 members of the [Save RIPTA Coalition](#) to express our strong support for Senator Vargas' transit bond bill S2668. The Save RIPTA Coalition is a broad coalition of community organizations, labor unions, legislative champions and everyday Rhode Islanders who call upon our state to save and expand the capacity of RIPTA to get Rhode Islanders where they need to go with affordable, convenient, environmentally responsible and reliable public transit.

This bill for a \$100 million bond in capital funding for RIPTA would finally make progress towards implementation of the visionary [Transit Master Plan](#) (TMP) adopted by the state in 2020 and help build a more convenient, accessible, safe, and reliable public transit system in Rhode Island.

As it stands today, most RIPTA trips are not competitive with driving because the bus is stuck in traffic and has to make many stops. This bond would fund the construction of rapid bus routes across the state identified in the TMP, like the planned [Metro Connector](#) project, that would drastically speed up transit travel times for transit riders. This would attract new ridership and meet our Act on Climate goals by funding the infrastructure needed to improve our public transportation system here in Rhode Island.

This bond would also provide direct funding for desperately needed improvements for the tens of thousands of current RIPTA riders. This includes improvements to bus stops and shelters; safer pedestrian access to bus stops including crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb ramps; and better passenger facilities at current bus hubs including bathrooms, sheltered and secured bike racks, and indoor waiting areas.

A reliable public transportation system is a lifeline for our youth, seniors, disabled, people with lower incomes, for our new arrivals, and for those who would rather take a ride than contribute to our chronic traffic, parking, and pollution issues. Rhode Island has the foundation of a wonderful statewide bus system, but it has **suffered from disinvestment and neglect for many years.**

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As we face long-term chronic traffic congestion caused by the Washington Bridge failure and generations of car-centric investment, it is now more necessary than ever to invest in and *expand* public transportation to meet the needs of a 21st century Rhode Island, not eliminate service across the state.

A functional transit system is key to our efforts to reduce emissions, to connect communities, and to create healthy, vibrant local economies. But in order to make that a reality, we need to invest in it like the serious piece of infrastructure that it is, which **means building the routes and facilities designed to speed up travel times, increase reliability, and passenger comfort.**

We urge you to support S2813, to give public transit in Rhode Island the generational investment it needs to become a high-quality, 21st Century system that current and future residents and visitors can rely on.

Sincerely,



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