

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is [name], I live in [town], and I am here/writing in support of Senator Vargas' Transit Master Plan Bond Bill S2813.

RIPTA has been a huge part of my life moving to Providence, because for the first time I am within travelling distance to my cousin. We grew up on separate sides of the world, and both decided to go to college here in Rhode Island; RIPTA has been the key, the one us to each other's campuses across the state. Having services cut means that what should be an easy trip we could do every week is now a multiple hour commitment that can't be done on a whim.

This bond for \$100 million 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 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.

I 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,

Your name
69 Brown St., Providence, Rhode Island 02912