

SAVE RIPTA

PVDStreets.org/Save-RIPTA

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

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee Members,

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.

We are writing in support of Senator Vargas bill 3013 which would provide increased, sustainable funding for RIPTA. Vehicle inspection fees have not been increased in more than a decade, while we have added much higher taxes and fees to electric vehicles, not to mention a push to increase ridership fees for public transit users. We need to ensure we are not disproportionately allowing increases on some and not equitably across the board.

We see our state struggling to provide an accessible public transit system and also our small businesses struggling financially, which both are great contributors to Rhode Island's economic successes. This bill will ensure both have more funding to ensure a better pathway to a more prosperous future.

We urge you to support this simple solution for increasing revenue and ridership for RIPTA while also helping the businesses receive an increase so that they can afford to perform inspections. This gives Rhode Island residents access to affordable transportation and provides sustainable funding for public transit to thrive.

Sincerely,



Nicole O'Loughlin
Political Director, Providence Streets Coalition
Manager, Save RIPTA
nicole@pvdstreets.org