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**From:** Susan Marcus <marcus.susan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:32 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** SUPPORT (S3084) - Rideshare Sales Tax Reallocation to RIPTA's Paratransit

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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 Senator Britto's Bill S3084, which would restrict the current 7% sales tax on Uber and Lyft rides to fund RIPTA's Paratransit and Ride Anywhere programs.

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. Public transit investment doesn't merely serve existing communities; it actively creates more valuable, vibrant, and economically productive places.

Last year the General Assembly passed the FY '26 budget with language stating that paratransit was not to receive any cuts and the one-year Ride Anywhere pilot, which increases paratransit service statewide, be made permanent. However, **no additional funding was provided for these programs to address skyrocketing demand** caused by cuts to the fixed route system, the larger paratransit service area, and an increasingly older population.

The demand for paratransit service is so high that RIPTA is forced to supplement its own vehicles and drivers with expensive private taxi rides. Meanwhile, paratransit riders are experiencing longer and longer wait times and declining customer service.

As a transit rider and supporter, I am relying on you to support this simple solution for increasing support for people with disabilities to travel around our state by diverting the existing sales tax from rides taken on Uber and Lyft — companies that are actively hurting public transit. This will not only achieve better financial stability for RIPTA, but allow for the sustainability and improvement of statewide paratransit service for all Rhode Islanders who qualify for the service due to a disability.

I urge you to support S3084, to increase revenue for RIPTA, giving Rhode Island residents access to affordable transportation and providing sustainable funding for public transit to thrive.

Sincerely,

Susan Marcus  
468 Post Road  
Wakefield, RI 02879

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<http://meadowrestoration.wordpress.com>