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Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

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April 8, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissailon
Chair, Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee
VIA EMAIL - Slegislation@rilegislature.gov

RE: Support for S-2124 – RIDOT Efficiency and Performance Audit Act

Dear Chairman Bissailon and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Grow Smart RI, I'm writing in support of S-2124, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation Efficiency and Performance Audit Act.

Grow Smart RI is Rhode Island's statewide smart growth advocacy organization. We represent a big-tent coalition of business and civic leaders, development and finance professionals and engaged grass roots community change agents, all committed to designing and developing /redeveloping our communities in ways that strengthen our Downtowns and Main Streets, expand affordable transportation and housing options, improve access to daily physical activity and protect Rhode Island's beauty, magic and soul.

Given a persistent backlog of unfunded state-of-good-repair projects across Rhode Island, and the many unfunded elements of our state's Transit Master Plan and Bicycle Mobility Plan, we believe it makes good sense to ensure that Rhode Island is optimizing RIDOT's investment of more than \$1 billion annually in transportation improvements.

We believe an efficiency and performance audit has strong potential to identify meaningful cost savings that can free up sorely needed funds for a more robust, user friendly public transit system and statewide Bike and Ped network.

We ask that you consider adding two elements to the proposal under "peer state benchmarking", 1.) a provision to include a peer comparison for sidewalk maintenance, including snow and ice removal, and 2.) a provision to compare tools being used by peer DOT's for modeling the emissions impact of proposed or planned transportation projects.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support this commonsense legislation.

Thank you,

John Flaherty
Senior Advisor and Special Projects