

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 566

EFFECTIVE ~~APPROX~~ November 28, 2011

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's (RIPTA) mission is to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective transit service with a skilled team of professionals responsive to its customers and the environment, with commitment to transit excellence; and

WHEREAS, RIGL 39-18-3 establishes that the purposes of RIPTA, which include providing public transit services that meet mobility needs of the people of the state, including the elderly and disabled, increasing access to employment opportunities, facilitating energy conservation and efficient energy usage in the transportation sector, mitigating traffic congestion, and enhancing air quality; and

WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2011, RIPTA's ridership increased by 1.5% to nearly 50,000 riders per day; and

WHEREAS, However, in the FY2012 budget, RIPTA's funding was reduced by more than \$1.3 million; and

WHEREAS, The State subsidy for RIPTA is appropriated annually by the General Assembly from proceeds of the motor fuel tax (RIGL 31-36-20); and

WHEREAS, This method of funding is both unsustainable and unreliable since fuel tax revenues will decrease as more citizens use public transportation and as fuel efficiency in vehicles increases; and

WHEREAS, Since 2003, the fare to ride a RIPTA bus has increased from \$1.25 to \$2, a 60% increase in less than a decade; and

WHEREAS, RIPTA's standard fare is higher than public transportation fares in cities such as Baltimore, Boston, Hartford, New Haven, Washington, DC, and Worcester; and

WHEREAS, New fare increases would place a significant burden on RIPTA's riders, who, on average, earn below the state median income; and

WHEREAS, Cuts in service would also place significant strain on riders, many of whom rely on RIPTA as their primary mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, Almost every RIPTA bus route travels through Providence; and

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Providence residents rely on RIPTA bus service to travel between home, work, and school; and

WHEREAS, The people of the City of Providence deserve the safe, reliable, and cost-efficient public transit system described in the State's General Laws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence respectfully requests that the General Assembly address the RIPTA funding crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council respectfully requests that the General Assembly amend the State budget to provide adequate funding for a sustainable and efficient RIPTA system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to House Speaker Gordon Fox, Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, Representative Helio Melo, Senator Daniel DaPonte, Representative Agostinho Silva, and the entire Providence General Assembly delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 17 2011

READ AND PASSED



PRES.



CLERK

ACTING

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature:



Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk