



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 192

EFFECTIVE April 28, 2024

WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed 2024-2025 budget includes an Operating Grant of \$10,000,000 for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA); and

WHEREAS, Public transportation serves as a critical infrastructure for thousands of Rhode Islanders, fostering vibrant communities, generating employment opportunities, mitigating traffic congestion, and contributing to a healthier environment; and

WHEREAS, The proposed fiscal budget for 2024-2025, with its current allocation, would result in an \$8 million deficit, leading to the reduction of essential services for Rhode Islanders who rely on public transportation for their daily needs and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island faces significant challenges with workforce limitations and staffing shortages across various sectors, necessitating proactive measures to address and reverse these trends; and

WHEREAS, An appropriation of \$24 million is vital for RIPTA to enhance its capacity to recruit and train additional bus operators, offering competitive wages and benefits that reflect the cost of living in Rhode Island and are comparable with neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, an annual allocation of \$46 million is imperative for the execution of the Transit Master Plan, aimed at extending transit services throughout the state, thereby supporting Rhode Island's commitment to achieving its Act on Climate goals; and

WHEREAS, The comprehensive appropriation of \$78,000,000 to RIPTA is essential for maintaining current transit services, augmenting the workforce of bus operators through improved recruitment and training initiatives, and advancing the state's environmental and climate objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council wholeheartedly supports House Bill 7774, advocating for the appropriation of \$78,000,000 to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority for the fiscal year 2024-2025, to ensure the continuation of vital transit services, bolster workforce development within the public transportation sector, and facilitate the implementation of strategic initiatives under the State's Act on Climate goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to members of the Rhode Island State House of Representatives and Rhode Island State Senate, and the Office of Governor Dan McKee, to underscore the critical importance of this appropriation for the welfare of Rhode Island's communities and the sustainable development of the state's public transportation infrastructure.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 18 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$78,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND TRANSIT
AUTHORITY (RIPTA)

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Cortvriend, Tanzi, Morales, Stewart, Giraldo,
Casimiro, Donovan, Diaz, and Hull
Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed 2024-2025 budget contains an Operating Grant of
2 \$10,000,000 for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA); and
3 WHEREAS, Public transportation is a lifeline for thousands of Rhode Islanders. It builds
4 thriving communities, creates jobs, eases traffic congestion and promotes a cleaner environment;
5 and
6 WHEREAS, The current 2024-2025 proposed fiscal budget amount will leave an \$8
7 million dollar deficit resulting in a loss of crucial services to Rhode Islanders whose livelihood
8 depends on public transportation; and
9 WHEREAS, In myriad areas across the State, Rhode Island's workforce is severely
10 limited and understaffed. To begin to rectify this growing challenge, initiatives must be instituted
11 to counter the downward trend; and
12 WHEREAS, An appropriation of \$24 million is essential in order to support RIPTA's
13 hiring and training of more bus operators by increasing wages and benefits to be competitive and
14 in line with the rising cost of living in Rhode Island and with our neighboring states; and
15 WHEREAS, In addition, \$46 million, granted annually, is critical for the implementation
16 of the Transit Master Plan that would expand transit service statewide – a key strategy for
17 reaching the state's legally mandated Act on Climate goals; now, therefore be it
18 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of money in the treasury not
19 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of seventy-eight million dollars

1 (\$78,000,000) to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to continue current service throughout
2 the State, hire and train more bus operators, and implement the State's Act on Climate goals; and
3 the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer
4 for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon
5 receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$78,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND TRANSIT
AUTHORITY (RIPTA)

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$78,000,000 to the
- 2 Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.

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