

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (“RIPTA” or the “Authority”) is a body corporate and politic created by R.I.G.L. §39-18, et seq. for the purpose of providing statewide public transit services;

WHEREAS, RIPTA has long had a systemic funding issue where no source of revenue keeps up with its expenditures;

WHEREAS, RIPTA makes every effort to operate efficiently and keep costs down:

WHEREAS, RIPTA is experiencing significant financial strain brought on by the pandemic;

WHEREAS, RIPTA has obtained \$128 million in federal relief funds and has been judiciously using those funds while searching for new revenue sources to prevent service cuts or fare increases;

WHEREAS, the \$128 million in federal funds is set to be exhausted in RIPTA’s Fiscal Year 2025;

WHEREAS; the State adopted the first ever Transit Master Plan in December of 2020 which calls for expanded service span, frequencies, and coverage to make Rhode Island a better place to live, learn, and work, help grow the economy, and stimulate development. It will provide better service to existing riders, attract new riders, and provide ladders of opportunity for disadvantaged residents;

WHEREAS, given the State of RI has enacted the Act on Climate law, and that there is unprecedented federal funding for transit decarbonization combined with advances in technology to reduce emissions from transit vehicles, RIPTA would have an opportunity to play a substantive role in reducing greenhouse gas emission and addressing climate change;

WHEREAS, if RIPTA was fully funded by the State of Rhode Island, RIPTA would not only be able to maintain existing service, but would also be able to expand and increase service frequencies in order to provide the best possible transit system for the riding public;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority that RIPTA is formally requesting the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate to consider fully funding RIPTA in order to:

- Offset projected losses from the fiscal cliff;
- Provide operating funds to implement the Transit Master Plan recommended service improvements;
- Provide ongoing capital support to purchase buses, improve and construct passenger facilities, and renovate and construct support facilities in order to expand transit capacity; and
- Provide funds to invest in cleaner bus technology, including but not limited, to hybrid buses, battery electric buses, and hydrogen fueled buses.

On Behalf of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, has executed this Resolution as of the _____ day of March 2023.

Normand G. Benoit, Esq.
Chair, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority