

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
RESOLUTION # 2025-08-12**

**Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for the
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority**

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) provides critical transportation services to residents across the state, including the communities of Portsmouth and the greater Aquidneck Island region; and

WHEREAS, public transit is essential to ensuring equitable access to education, employment, and healthcare, especially for students, seniors, and working individuals who may lack reliable personal transportation; and

WHEREAS, RIPTA plays a vital role in connecting residents of Portsmouth to regional destinations, including Newport, Middletown, and Providence, thus reducing traffic congestion, supporting economic development, and improving environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, many students on Aquidneck Island—including those attending Portsmouth High School, Roger Williams University, and Salve Regina University—depend on RIPTA services for safe and consistent access to educational opportunities and internships; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of seniors on Aquidneck Island rely on RIPTA for independence, medical appointments, shopping, and social interaction, enabling them to age in place with dignity and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, working families and individuals in Portsmouth face rising transportation and housing costs, making affordable and reliable public transit more essential than ever for commuting to jobs both on and off the island; and

WHEREAS, enhanced investment in RIPTA would allow for increased frequency, expanded service hours, improved infrastructure, and more robust connections between Portsmouth and key employment and service hubs across Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the current levels of funding have constrained RIPTA's ability to meet demand and maintain service quality, threatening the mobility and well-being of thousands of Rhode Islanders, particularly in rural and suburban communities like Portsmouth.

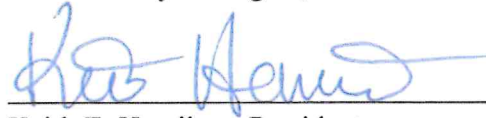
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council strongly hereby expresses its strong support for increased and sustained state investment in the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council respectfully urges the Governor and the Department of Transportation to prioritize funding that ensures equitable, island-wide access

to high-quality public transportation services for all residents, especially students, seniors, and working families in Portsmouth and throughout Aquidneck Island;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to RIPTA leadership, the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the President of the Rhode Island Senate, the Governor of Rhode Island, Newport County state legislators, and the City & Town Councils throughout the state, and the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns.

By Order of the Portsmouth Town Council
on this 12 day of August, 2025.



Keith E. Hamilton, President

ATTEST:



Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk