

Lou Mansolillo

From: barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 2:08 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Cc: Patricia Raub
Subject: RI Transit Riders in opposition to H8344

Dear House Corporations Committee

Rhode Island Transit Riders (RITR) urges the Corporations Committee to defer action on bill H8344 about public-private partnerships by holding it for further study. The bill, introduced on June 7 really does need further study because it is a bill with potential far reaching implications including issues related to bonding authority, eminent domain, lack of public input or even legislative input safeguards, and fiscal responsibility. While a public-private partnership can be a reasonable strategy at times, we need to get the process right, and there are just too many issues to rush this bill through at this time.

This is of special concern for RITR because RIPTA is involved with a possible PPP that has the potential to cripple the agency with debt while removing its central bus hub to a remote location which does not serve passengers and would surely increase trip times and operating costs. While it is not entirely clear to what extent this bill would apply to the current RIPTA contract we strongly urge the Committee to not pass H8344 (and the companion Senate bill S3122) in this session.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation,
Barry Schiller for RITR

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cc Patricia Raub, co-chair, RI Transit Riders