

March 5, 2024

Scott Avedisian  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority  
705 Elmwood Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02907

Dear Mr. Avedisian,

**Together as a delegation representing the greater Central Falls area, we join voices to express our deep concern regarding the proposed RIPTA cuts, including Route 71, that would devastate our community.**

Central Falls is the state's poorest municipality, with many residents not owning or having access to vehicles. Our constituents depend heavily on public transportation to keep their jobs, attend important appointments, go to school, and support their families.

Central Falls was identified by RIPTA as a community that relies heavily on public transportation when our city was chosen to pilot new geofencing technology, promoting the use of public transportation (the "Ride Free Central Falls Pilot.") Despite that pilot program recently ending, our community's reliance on existing RIPTA routes remains.

RIPTA's proposed cuts take away a third of the available routes for our residents. Accessible transportation makes all the difference for our residents, and we're disappointed that – despite our city being amongst the most harshly impacted by these cuts – there have not been any public hearings scheduled in Central Falls on this issue.

We urge you to consider the negative impact these cuts will have on our families, students, workforce, and small businesses. As a One Square Mile city, we see the way our community relies on the existing RIPTA routes for their daily lives – to get to jobs in other communities, childcare and school commitments, medical appointments, and so much more.

Public transportation is an important economic engine for our state and our residents. These RIPTA service cuts will be detrimental to our working families and local economy.

As the Central Falls delegation, we stand together to advocate against these cuts that will irreparably harm our City of Central Falls.

Sincerely,




**Maria Rivera**  
Mayor



**Joshua Giraldo**  
Representative (District 56)



**Jonathon Acosta**  
Senator (District 16)



**Brandon Voas**  
Representative (District 57)



**Karen Alzate**  
Representative (District 60)