

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

R E S O L U T I O N

OF THE

C O U N C I L

No.2025-142

CITY OF NEWPORT

**A Resolution in Opposition to Proposed RIPTA Service Cuts
Affecting Aquidneck Island**

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has proposed service reductions as part of its plan to manage a fiscal year 2026 deficit; and

WHEREAS, among the proposed service changes, Routes 60, 63, 64, 68, 231, and the Flex 203 South Aquidneck Zone are slated for elimination, service reduction, ending weekend service, or other restructuring—directly impacting Aquidneck Island communities, including Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth; and

WHEREAS, such changes would have severe consequences for Aquidneck Island riders; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of Route 68 would sever connectivity between one of Newport's densest neighborhoods of residents from downtown and crucial social services in Middletown, undermining local equity goals; and

WHEREAS, Route 64 cuts would eliminate direct transit access between Aquidneck Island and the University of Rhode Island, striking a major blow to island students and would undercut efforts to link education and employment centers; and

WHEREAS, these service changes would leave many island residents, particularly seniors, low-income families, students, hospitality workers, and those dependent on public transit, effectively stranded, unable to access employment, healthcare, educational institutions, or essential services; and

WHEREAS, eliminating existing fixed-route service significantly reduces the likelihood of future restoration, jeopardizing long-term local and regional mobility; restoring demand alone may not prompt reinstatement of routes once they are fully eliminated; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Newport City Council strongly opposes the RIPTA proposed service cuts affecting Aquidneck Island and Newport, and respectfully requests that RIPTA reconsider these proposed service cuts; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the City of Newport stands ready to collaborate with RIPTA, neighboring municipalities, state officials, and transit advocates to identify equitable, community-informed solutions that support public transit on Aquidneck Island and Rhode Island as a whole; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, legislative leadership and Newport legislative delegation, RIPTA Board and CEO, and the towns of Middletown and Portsmouth.

XAY KHAMSYVORAVONG
STEPHANIE SMYTH
ELLEN PINNOCK
LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE
DAVID R. CARLIN III

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
AUGUST 13, 2025


LAURA C SWISTAK, CMC
CITY CLERK