



**COALITION FOR
TRANSPORTATION
CHOICES**

Legislative Endorsement Form

Yes, count us in support of the Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011 (S148, H5789)

We support the Rhode Island Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011 ([S148](#), [H5789](#)) to create sustainable investments in road and bridge rehabilitation, maintenance, public transit and to simultaneously reduce the amount of borrowing through bonds. This bill will reduce future debt-servicing obligations while increasing the investment in Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure.

This bill will:

1) Create the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance and Public Transit Trust Fund. The Trust Fund would be managed by the State Planning Council within the Department of Administration's Division of Planning. Trust fund money would be allocated as follows:

- 50% to RIDOT for maintenance and repair of existing roads and bridges
- 35% to RIPTA for capital expenditures or operations maintenance
- 15% to cities and towns for maintenance and repair of local roads

2) Invest in the Trust Fund through an increase in the auto registration fee of \$20 per year. This source of funding would generate an estimated \$23 million annually. This and seven other recommendations were included in the 2008 Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) report on Rhode Island's Transportation Future. Other funding sources could be added to the Trust Fund in order to address the shortfall in transportation funding needs. The BRP reported the funding gap that exists to bring all roads and bridges into a state of good repair is \$285 million annually for 10 years.

3) Reduce future debt by capping the amount of borrowing through bonds.

For every \$10 million directed to the Department of Transportation from the Trust Fund, the amount of RIDOT's next biannual bond issue would be reduced by \$5 million from the base amount. For decades, Rhode Island has issued bonds in order to provide the 20% match required to bring federal transportation dollars into Rhode Island. The bonds have created a substantial debt burden that will have to be serviced for generations. In 2011, over 50% of the money allocated to RIDOT from the gasoline tax will pay for interest on past bond issues.

In support of this legislation, we would like to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be an endorser only | <input type="checkbox"/> Organize local events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Include articles in our newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Help members write letters-to-the editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide testimony at public hearings | <input type="checkbox"/> Write letters to Gov. Chafee and the General Assembly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact our members about sustainable transportation funding | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Contact Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

Please return this form to:

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For more information, see www.rictc.org