



The Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) Program in Rhode Island

Legislation to Advance Transportation and Climate Justice

Rhode Island has an opportunity to deliver the clean air and improved transportation options that the Ocean State's residents and businesses deserve. Chronic underinvestment – both in marginalized communities and in alternatives to personal vehicles – has resulted in congested roads, inadequate public transit, and isolated communities. At the same time, the imported fossil fuels used to power vehicles remain the state's greatest contributor to climate change and a major source of the **air pollution that disproportionately harms** black and brown communities. It is time to end that toxic combination by passing legislation to deliver a modern, equitable, and sustainable transportation future.

No single policy will fix these challenges overnight, but there are many bills that, together, will deliver meaningful progress towards transportation and climate justice. While this document focuses on the equitable implementation of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) Program through **S0872** and **H6310**, The Transportation Emissions and Mobile (TEAM) Community Act, all of the following bills are critical to the equitable transformation and decarbonization of transportation in Rhode Island:



S0872/H6310

Transportation Emissions and Mobile (TEAM) Community Act



H 6253/S 173

An act relative to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



S 105

An act relative to Environmental Justice



S 42

An act relative to State Vehicle Fleet Electrification



H5093/S318

An act relative to Vulnerable Road Users



S 908

An act relative to Fare Free Transit



H5684

An act to Exempt Bicycles from the State Sales Tax

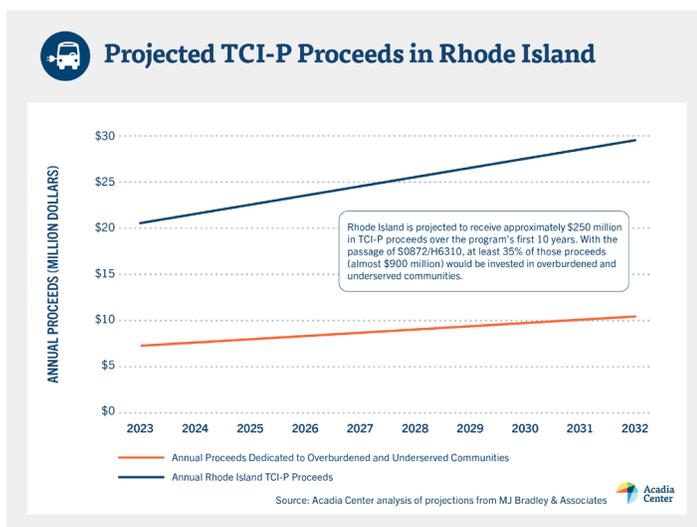
What is TCI?

The **Transportation and Climate Initiative** (TCI) is a collaboration between states stretching from New England to North Carolina with the goal of delivering regional solutions to transportation and climate challenges. Through that effort, the states have developed the TCI Program (TCI-P); a cap-and-invest program designed to reduce pollution from gasoline and diesel fuels while generating a new source of funding for clean and equitable transportation investments.

Former Governor Raimondo, the governors of Connecticut and Massachusetts, and the mayor of Washington, D.C. committed to participating in the TCI Program by signing on to the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** in December 2020. More states are expected to join before the TCI Program's launch in 2023.

In Rhode Island, the TCI Program is projected to deliver \$100 million in annual health benefits by 2032.

The TCI Program's framework is consistent across the region, as detailed in the **draft Model Rule**, but the authority to implement the Program – and key decisions around how to implement it – are left to each participating state. Notably, each state must determine how to invest its share of proceeds from regional carbon allowance auctions; in Rhode Island, that annual figure is projected to be approximately \$20 million in 2023, totaling approximately \$250 million through the program's first ten years.



What does S0872/H6310 do?

S0872/H6310, the Transportation Emissions and Mobile (TEAM) Community Act is designed to ensure that the TCI Program will be implemented equitably in Rhode Island. The bill builds on the regional framework, adding necessary details specific to the state and strengthening regionally-agreed-upon equity provisions. If passed, **S0872/H6310** will create an inclusive and transparent process to identify TCI-funded investments, it will center the voices of environmental justice communities and populations underserved by transit, and it will direct new resources towards the transition to a clean transportation future. Through the following measures, the bill addresses the needs of Rhode Island communities and sets an example for other TCI states:

- Creating the **TCI Special Fund**, which will fund investments in clean transportation, improved public transit, walking and biking infrastructure, and other projects to support transportation justice and cleaner air;
- Requiring that at least **35% of TCI proceeds** are invested to benefit communities that suffer disproportionately from transportation pollution or lack access to mobility options;
- Defining the roles and membership of the **TCI Equity Advisory Body**, a group representing overburdened and underserved populations from across the state, including Rhode Island's 10 established Health Equity Zones, that will shape the program's implementation and inform investment decisions.

The TCI Program is projected to be a source of **economic growth, new jobs, and cleaner air**. In Rhode Island, the TCI Program is projected to deliver **\$100 million in annual health benefits by 2032**, including nearly 10 avoided deaths each year and over 500 avoided childhood asthma exacerbations annually. Through **S0872/H6310** and the additional policies outlined above, Rhode Island can ensure that those benefits are felt in the communities that suffer most from transportation pollution and have the least access to reliable, clean mobility options.

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