



November 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

The Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council) meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM in the RIPTA board room, 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, and online through Microsoft Teams. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

Joelle Kanter, RIPTA planner, announced the Coordinating Council's vision: accessible, coordinated statewide mobility for all Rhode Islanders. She then presented minutes from the September 8, 2025 meeting for the council's review.

Presentation: Rhode Island Olmstead Plan action teams

Joelle introduced Allegra Scharff, Chief of Healthcare Equity and Olmstead Coordinator for the Rhode Island Department of Health, to give an update on Olmstead action teams. Allegra described the U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead decision that considers segregation of people with disabilities as discriminatory under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Last year, Rhode Island developed a plan, using a whole-of-government approach to supporting people with disabilities in the least restrictive settings. Action teams have formed around the six broad goals outlined in the plan, including recommendations for public safety, housing and transportation, behavioral health systems, state processes, career exploration, and participation in open meetings. The Olmstead advisory group will also continue meeting bi-monthly, and public participation is welcome.

Member agency/organization updates

- United Way of Rhode Island: Cristina Amedeo reported on United Way's emergency response to the federal government shutdown and its impact on food insecurity. United Way organized a social safety net partnership, including 30 sites for food collection, and created an online hub through the 2-1-1 database. People can call 2-1-1, go online, or use a chat feature to find information about food banks and other resources. United Way delivers information in different languages, and they've expanded their outreach services through ADRC staff to public housing, DHS sites, senior centers, and other locations. Cristina also mentioned a new campaign, Give for Good RI, to collect individual donations. United Way/2-1-1 has a no wrong door approach, meaning that even if they can't help a client directly, they will connect them with other services.



- RI Office of Healthy Aging (OHA):
 - Maria Cimini reminded the group that the state's Elderly Transportation Program (ETP) covers rides to congregant meal sites, but not food pantries, for older Rhode Islanders age 60+. Trips are free, but there is a requested donation of \$3 per meal. ETP also covers trips to medical appointments, dialysis, and In-Sight.
 - Maria also announced that OHA printed a new pocket manual with more than 50 pages of resources for older adults. It's available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.
 - She added that OHA has asked EOHS' data team to look at the relationship between SNAP benefits and late month hospital admissions for people who have chronic conditions.
- RI Department of Health: Ishaan Gadkari said that the Healthy Eating and Active Living Program is working with the state's GIS team on an app to track food access in real time, matching bus routes with resources. The app is still in development, and she will share updates when it launches.
- RI Department of Human Services: Orianna Carvalho said that DHS is coordinating with the RI Department of Labor & Training to prepare for changes to work requirements for SNAP recipients. Maria Cimini added that the change involves a requirement for people ages 55-64 without a disability to work or participate in a related activity for 80 hours/month, starting in February.
- AARP Rhode Island: Holly Snyder announced that AARP's Community Challenge quick action grant program will open in January for projects that make communities more livable for everyone. Applications will be accepted through March, and announcements will be made in June. She also reported that the recent Walktober activation was a success. Data from walk audits will be shared with the Providence Planning Department to help implement improvements.

RIPTA updates

- Joelle Kanter mentioned that RIPTA has messaging on its website about bus routes people can take to access food resources: www.ripta.com/food.
- She announced that RIPTA's fall service changes went into effect at the end of September.
- RIPTA also launched a residential pilot program, inviting multifamily residential property owners and managers to apply on a rolling basis. Participating properties will be able to order Wave cards for their residents with monthly passes loaded for December and January at no cost. This pilot is funded by a grant from the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4).

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM.



Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

November 10, 2025 Attendance List (in person and Teams)

Name	Organization
Cristina Amedeo	United Way of RI
Orianna Carvalho	RI Department of Human Services
Maria Cimini	RI Office of Healthy Aging
Ritchell Chery	AAA Northeast
Jacques Dextradeur	RI Office of Veterans Services
Laurie DiOrio	RI Department of Human Services
Ishaan Gadkari	RI Department of Health
Peter Joly	RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Maureen Maigret	Senior Agenda Coalition of RI
Bob Marshall	RI Developmental Disabilities Council
Estephany Matrille	RI Community Action Association
Mario Olivieri	RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Allegra Scharff	RI Department of Health
Holly Snyder	AARP RI volunteer