



January 12, 2026 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 2:09 PM at RIPTA's office, 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 November 10, 2025 meeting for the council's review.

Overview: RIPTA multifamily residential pilot program

Joelle gave an update on RIPTA's residential pilot program. In November, RIPTA invited multifamily properties with at least 10 units located near bus routes to submit applications on a rolling basis. With funding from the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4), the pilot program was designed to increase RIPTA ridership and reduce residential tenants' reliance on personal vehicles by giving them free Wave cards with monthly passes loaded. After initially approving 10 properties, RIPTA opened the waitlist and extended the program into February. RIPTA wants to learn about participants' ridership patterns, property management interest in continuing to support residents after the pilot, and any challenges with program administration.

Member agency/organization updates

- Jim Connell, Age-Friendly RI, gave an update on the RI Commission on Aging, led by Representative Lauren Carson, and the Master Plan on Aging, which is currently underway with technical assistance from the Center for Health Care Strategies. Subgroups have formed around eight domains including transportation, which Jim leads. The master planning process started with state department leaders mapping resources that support health, safety, and welfare of older adults, and has continued with a public dialogue about priorities. The commission will continue meeting and will have another gathering in the new year. Jim also announced that Age-Friendly RI is hosting a summit at Rhode Island College on January 22nd.
- Mario Olivieri, RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services, said the state's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation broker, MTM, is meeting its requirements.



- Maureen Maigret, RI Senior Agenda Coalition, has requested an expansion of the state’s Elderly Transportation Program (ETP) to provide rides for low-income older adults to food banks.
- Darlene Reza Rossi, AARP Rhode Island, announced the AARP Community Challenge Grant. Applications are due on March 4, 2026 for quick action projects that make communities more livable.
- Tina Guenette, RAMP, said she is coordinating with food banks to make sure they are accessible for people who use mobility devices. She also announced that the U.S. Access Board will meet on May 4-8 at Bally’s Twin River in Lincoln. As part of the event, there will be a town hall in the afternoon on May 5th and a statewide accessibility summit that evening. She is looking for volunteers to help with finding sponsors.

RIPTA Updates

- State Management Plan: This plan describes objectives, policies and procedures for administering several Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding programs including the Section 5310 program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and the Section 5311 program for Formula Grants for Rural Areas. The public comment period on the latest draft ended on Friday, and an updated version of the plan will be posted on RIPTA’s website soon.
- RIPTA winter service changes go into effect on Saturday, January 17, 2026. These changes typically happen three times a year to improve service reliability and on-time performance.
- RIPTA’s Low Income Program is still active for organizations that support riders facing homelessness or experiencing housing insecurity.

Discussion

- Maureen requested information about RIPTA’s bus buddy program.
- Joelle announced the remaining Coordinating Council meeting dates this year: March 9, May 11, July 13, September 14, and November 9, 2026.
- Participants discussed potential presentation topics for future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.



**Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council
January 12, 2026 Attendance List (in person and Teams)**

Name	Organization
Steven Boudreau	RI Office of Healthy Aging
Benny Bergantino	RI Division of Statewide Planning
Anita Chase	RI Department of Human Services
Melissa Cocroft	RI Primary Care Physicians Corporation
Jim Connell	Age-Friendly RI
Nick Dwyer	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Laurie DiOrio	RI Department of Human Services/Office of Rehabilitation Services
Ishaa Gadkari	RI Department of Health
Tina Guenette	RAMP
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Maureen Maignet	Senior Agenda Coalition of RI
Estephany Matrille	RI Community Action Association
Lorna Oinonen	AARP RI volunteer
Mario Olivieri	RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Darlene Reza Rossi	AARP RI
Donna Rook	RI Department of Human Services
Mark Schieldrop	AAA Northeast