



## **SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday February 5, 2026  
3:00 p.m.  
269 Melrose Street, Providence  
Transportation Board Room**

[RIPTA Board of Directors - February 5, 2026](#)

### **AGENDA**

1. Public Comment / Board Discussion      Limited to 3 minutes per person.
2. Board Discussion/ Potential Vote      Approval of Expenditures to INIT (RIPTA's fare technology provider) to implement open payments on the fleet, and outfit the paratransit fleet with Wave validators
3. Executive Session      Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.
4. Adjournment

This Agenda was posted on February 3, 2026.

By a majority vote, a public body may amend its agenda to add items. The additional items shall be for informational purposes only and may not be voted on except when necessary to address an unexpected occurrence requiring immediate action or to refer the matter to an appropriate committee pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-6(b).

Copies of Meeting Minutes may be obtained pursuant to RIPTA's public records policy, which is available at <https://www.ripta.com/public-records-request/>. An interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing can be provided by calling 784-9500 x1171 at least 48 hours in advance. The location is accessible to the handicapped.

**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY STAFF SUMMARY FORM**

<b>TO:</b>	RIPTA Board of Directors	<b>DATE:</b>	01/30/2026
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	John Chadwick	<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Transportation

**TITLE :** Procurement of Fare Collection Upgrade

RIPTA Board of Directors is requested to authorize procurement of upgrades to the current INIT fare collection equipment used on all fixed route, flex and paratransit vehicles. This upgrade will include Open fare collection capability as well as purchasing and installing new validators on all flex and paratransit vehicles. The total cost for all elements of this proposal is \$481,312.16

**BACKGROUND**

RIPTA currently is contracted with INIT Innovations in Transportation as its electronic fare media collection system. This system is currently deployed in all fixed route vehicles. It uses a proprietary card reading mechanism (validator) to read its fare product (Wave card) for RIPTA.

RIPTA does not currently have validators in either its paratransit or flex vehicles. The Wave cards are processed through a manual system when used on either of those two modes. RIPTA is requesting to purchase 100 new validators from our sister agency CapMetro at a cost of \$50,000 for all 100 units. INIT will supply all reconfiguration, programming, licensing, and additional needed hardware at a cost of \$195,636.06. The total cost for this implementation is \$245,636.06.

In an ongoing effort to improve the customer experience, RIPTA is requesting to add open payments to its current INIT fare collection platform. This electronic payment mechanism will allow passengers to utilize contactless payment at the validators via credit/debit card or mobile wallet. The cost for this implementation and licensing is \$235,706.10.

**JUSTIFICATION**

Both of the requested initiatives are in keeping with the Agency's desire to improve the customer experience.

Open payments offers a seamless transit experience by allowing riders to use contactless credit/debit cards or mobile wallets directly at fare validators. This reduces the cost and complexity of managing physical fare media while improving convenience and speed for passengers. The system also enhances flexibility, accommodating occasional riders and tourists with ease.

The addition of fare validators on both paratransit and flex vehicles, will allow all riders to have the same benefits and rider experience that open payments provides.

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DEPARTMENT: Transportation

## FUNDING

RIPTA will use federal funding for 80% of the cost, with 20% coming from RIPTA operating.

## ALTERNATIVES

RIPTA could purchase either the additional validators or the ability to use open payments.

No approval would leave the system at status quo.

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the purchase and installation of both the validators and the ability to use open payment, at a total cost of \$481,312.16.

**APPROVALS (shaded Departments must approve all Staff Summaries). Projects between \$5,000 and \$10,000 must have Department Director/AGM. Projects between \$10,000 and \$100,000 must have CEO also. Projects greater than \$100,000 must also have Board of Directors Approval**

Department	Initial	Date	Department	Initial	Date
Budget/Finance	<i>W</i>	02/03/2026	Maintenance/Facility	<i>D</i>	
Customer Service			Marketing	<i>D</i>	
Environmental/Safety	<i>D</i>		Planning	<i>D</i>	
Project Management	<i>D</i>		Procurement	<i>JGP</i>	02/03/2026
Flex/Paratransit	<i>D</i>		Security	<i>D</i>	
Human Resources	<i>D</i>		Training	<i>D</i>	
Inform. Services	<i>D</i>		Transportation	<i>JGP</i>	02/03/2026
Legal/Risk Mgmt	<i>D</i>		Chief Exec. Officer	<i>JGP</i>	02/03/2026