



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
2:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; James Lombardi, Board Vice Chair; James Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit; Heather Schey; Vincent Masino; and Bernard Georges.

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes;

Also Present: Christopher Durand, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: Board Resolution – Employee Commendation.

Director Alviti reads the Board Resolution into the record. Mr. Leach makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Ms. Schey, Mr. Georges, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

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.

Agenda Item 2: To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 23, 2025.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Georges, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

1. Steven Colantuono, Esq.

- Reads a letter into the record sent by a Brown University Parent to RIPTA employees who assisted in the evacuation of students following the tragic events of December 13, 2025.

2. Dylan Giles- Save RIPTA – Providence Street Coalition

- Thanks for the reading of the letter and extends gratitude for RIPTA's response to the Brown University tragedy.
- Discusses ridership decline after the service cuts were implemented.
- Encourages the Board to take a bus ride.
- States that increasing fares will make things worse.

3. Daria Phoebe Brashear

- Happy to see that South County service has been returned.
- States that fare increases are not a good look on the Agency.

4. Walter Melillo, Local ATU 618 President

- Makes comments regarding the budget.
- States that reductions negatively impact operators.
- States that buses are overcrowded, traffic is horrendous and that makes it difficult on operators, causing operators to become overstressed and consider retirement.
- Implores the Board to look into funding sources for the future.
- States that RIPTA needs to expand and not decrease and that the State needs to fund RIPTA.

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.

5. Robin Barradas

- States that buses are crowded and wait times are very long.
- States that Next Wave has provided no information on the public forums they held.
- States that the proposed new location has a structural issue and the area is very crowded.
- States that there is no transparency regarding the new transit center.
- Challenges the Board to take a bus ride.

6. Randall Rose

- Appreciates what RIPTA did in response to the Brown tragedy.
- Requests that operators let passengers on the bus earlier due to the cold weather.
- Comments that the Governor's letter regarding the RIPTA budget is very unusual and the Governor relies on a budget increase from a fare increase even though fare increases result in decreased ridership.
- Comments regarding the proposed new bus hub. States that Task 2 is not complete as a public forum to discuss three potential spots for a new hub has not been held. States that RIPTA could save money by staying in Kennedy Plaza and the money requested should be apart of Task 2.

7. Liza Burkin

- Echoes other's comments regarding RIPTA operators.
- States that since September, Save RIPTA has been collecting and compiling data to complete a report which will be released on January 8, 2026, at 3:00pm at the State House Library.
- States that buses are overfull leaving people stranded.

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.

8. Grant Dulgarian

- Thanks Mr. Durand and Director Alviti for outstanding service. Reiterates his request for a meeting.
- States that the bus stop at the State House needs to be moved to help the mobility challenged and that the structure there that was previously a guard shack could be turned into a shelter.
- States that direct mailing bus schedules to everyone within a certain radius of a bus stop would increase ridership.
- Comments on the traffic pattern of Kennedy Plaza and provides possible solutions for improvement.

Director Alviti states that Agenda Items #6 and #7 will be moved up on the order of the Agenda.

Agenda Item 6: Budget Submission

Christopher Durand presents the request. Discussion by the Board ensues.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Georges, Ms. Schey and Mr. Masino. Mr. Benoit opposes the motion.

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.

Agenda Item 7: Transit Center

Christopher Durand presents the request to allow Next Wave to conduct structural analysis and perform any additional design work, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Georges, and Ms. Schey.

Director Alviti leaves the meeting at 3:36pm.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's CEO, provides an overall agency update as outlined in the CEO Report. Mr. Durand also provides additional information regarding some tweaks to be made to service, including re-timing, addressing operator recovery and reinstating service on Route 69.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 5: RIPTA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule 2026

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the 2026 Schedule. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Ms. Schey, and Mr. Georges. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

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.

Agenda Item 8: GIRO Three Year Maintenance Contract Extension

Gary Jarvis, Deputy Chief of Information Technology, makes a request to extend the GIRO maintenance contract for an additional three years.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Georges and Mr. Masino. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

Agenda Item 9: Reveal Paratransit Software Extension

Mr. Durand requests a modification to the request as presented and asks the Board to approve a one-year extension instead of a three-year extension. Brooks Almonte, Deputy Chief of Paratransit makes a request to extend the Reveal Paratransit Software for one year.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Georges and Ms. Schey. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

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.

Agenda Item 10: **Board Questions and Answers**

Mr. Crowley comments that he will be making a motion to adjourn in memory of Patricia Raub.

Mr. Benoit comments on his tenure on the Board. He stated that when he was first appointed as Chairman, he found that RIPTA was efficiently run with some minimal adjustments needed. He also found RIPTA to be behind in pension contributions due to budgetary issues. Mr. Benoit states that the fiscal cliff has been an ongoing issue and that RIPTA must find a permanent funding source.

Mr. Lombardi comments that his previous comment of “the more we tax the more we spend” was regarding the state level and not RIPTA.

Ms. Schey states that the deficit is based upon the current service that has already been cut.

No vote is taken.

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.

Agenda Item 11: 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.

Mr. Benoit motions to enter Executive Session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Ms. Schey, Mr. Masino and Mr. Georges. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

The Board enters into 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.

The Board and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 3:48 p.m.

The Board and Counsel enter public session at 4:04 p.m.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that three votes were taken during Executive Session, including a vote to seal the vote taken during Executive Session and a vote to adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Crowley motions to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Georges and Ms. Schey. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

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.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment – 4:07 p.m.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to adjourn in memory of Patricia Raub of the RI Transit Riders and a long-time transit advocate. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Georges and Ms. Schey. Director Alviti was not present for the vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary

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.