

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:30 p.m. 269 Melrose Street, Providence Transportation Board Room

The meeting can be watched online here:

RIPTA Board of Directors July 25, 2024

AGENDA

1.	Board Approval	To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
		Meeting of June 27, 2024.

- 2. Board Approval To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of June 27, 2024.
- 3. Public Comment / Limited to 3 minutes per person. Board Discussion
- 4. CEO Report
- Rhode to RIPTA
- Employee Spotlight
- Commendation
- Lost Service
- Financial Update
- Service/Ridership Update
- On Time Performance Analysis
- Low Income Pilot Update
- Transit Center Update

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 http://www.ripta.com/access-to-public-records-act. 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.



Board Discussion / Potential Vote Request for Approval: Tunnel Project – Change Order

6. Board Discussion / Potential Vote

Request for Approval: Maintenance Contract – Change Order

7. Board Discussion / Potential Vote

Board Questions and Answers

8. 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.

9. Adjournment

Agenda Posted on July 18, 2024

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 27, 2024 1:30 p.m. 269 Melrose Street, Providence Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; James

Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit;

Vincent Masino; and Heather Schey.

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes and James Lombardi.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, Interim CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board

Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and

members of the public.

<u>Call to Order:</u> Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., indicating that quorum

was present.

Agenda Item 1: To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of

Directors Meeting of May 23, 2024.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino. Ms. Schey was absent for the vote.

Agenda Item 2: To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of

the Board of Directors Meeting of May 23, 2024.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Benoit. Ms. Schey was absent for the vote.

Heather Schey enters the meeting at 1:34pm.

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment

1. Daria Brashear

Comments regarding the software upgrade approved at the prior meeting still
has issues. Advises that there are problems with the app, and it is not
functioning properly.

2. Patricia Raub

- Advises that improvements to Kennedy Plaza are appreciated.
- States that she is aware that new shelter panels and clock components are on order.
- States that there is still a way to go with improvements.
- Advises that there is no indication of cost for the firm to handle the CEO search and that RIPTA should conduct its own search and save the money which can be put to better use.
- Urges the Board, RIPTA staff, and the Union to be proactive in pursuing Legislature for funding.
- Advises that RIPTA needs to make additional efforts to increase ridership.

3. Randall Rose

- Advises that public events regarding relocating the bus hub do not include questioning the public if they want the bus hub moved.
- States that the majority of riders do not want the hub moved.
- Advises that RIPTA would lose control over the building at a new bus hub.
- Advises that RIPTA needs to be upfront about the disadvantages of moving the bus hub.
- States that there is lack of transparency in board packets, and the packets need more detail.
- States that improvements have been made to Kennedy Plaza, but more security is needed.

4. Joe Cole

- Advises that Christoper Durand should remain CEO.
- States that late bus issues are a result of backup on the roadways which is out of RIPTA's control.
- States that an impact study needs to be performed before moving the bus hub.
- Advises that trip runs must be considered when moving the hub.

5. Grant Dulgarian

- Advises that he wants to speak to the individual responsible for bus stops on Angel Street, West of Thayer. States that some bus stops are missing, or too far apart.
- States that a rider impact statement is necessary before considering moving the bus hub from Kennedy Plaza. Reiterates past solutions for fixing problems with Kennedy Plaza.
- States that before spending \$250 million for a 4th lane, environmental and economic impact studies, including rail options, are necessary.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, points out the items included in the CEO report: RIPTA at a Glance, Employee Spotlight, Financial Update, Service/Ridership Update, Low Income Pilot Update, Transit Center Update, and High-Capacity Transit Study Update. Advises Board about RIPTA's recent job fair, including twenty-one operators in line for September 2024. Advises that there are no service cuts expected in the forecast. Provides update on employee restroom in Kennedy Plaza.

Agenda Item 5: Commendation of Operator Leocadio Hernandez

Christopher Durand presents a Commendation to Leocadio Hernandez on behalf of RIPTA Management and the Board of Directors.

Mr. Herandez thanks Management and the Board, expresses his loyalty to RIPTA, and advises that he loves his job.

Agenda Item 6: Process for Executive Search Update

Steven Colantuono, RIPTA's Chief Legal Counsel provides an update to the Board.

Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Counsel for the RIPTA Board of Directors advises that six responses were received as a result of a mini bid. Further advises that the responses were evaluated by three members of his law firm and MerraineGov, Inc. scored the highest.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the selection of MerraineGov, Inc to perform the Executive Search. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Masino, and Ms. Schey.

Mr. Kells makes a motion to shorten the timeframe MerraineGov, Inc. proposed to have a permanent CEO in place. The motion is not seconded and fails.

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval: Line of Credit Solicitation

Christopher Durand presents the request.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the request, with the caveat that RIPTA return to the Board for approval of the exact amount. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 8: Request for Approval: Change Order - Init

Christopher Durand requests that this Agenda Item be continued for future consideration. The Board agrees and no vote is taken.

Agenda Item 9: Request for Approval: Award of Contract for RFP 24-27 Comprehensive Operation Analysis

Board discussion ensues regarding this Agenda Item.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to suspend procurement until such time a permanent CEO is hired and to have the Board solicit ideas for the analysis from the perspective applicants to the CEO position. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Masino, and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 10: Request for Approval: Award of Contract for RFP 24-28 Pawtucket Central Falls Bus Hub Construction

Matthew Quider, Project Manager, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 11: Request for Approval: Stop Loss Policy

Christopher Durand presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 12: Board Questions and Answers

No questions were asked.

Agenda Item 13:

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 and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(3), Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices.

Mr. Benoit motions to enter executive session. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Crowley, and Ms. Schey. The Board enters into Executive Session 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 and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(3), Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 3:00pm.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 3:35pm.

Attorney Christopher Fragomeni reports that one vote was taken during Executive Session, to adjourn the Executive Session.

Mr. Masino makes a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 14: Adjournment - 3:36pm

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to adjourn. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary



RHODE TO RIPTA



Summer Service Changes

Summer service changes and the start of seasonal services went into effect on Saturday, June 15, 2024. Riders can enjoy increased frequency on Route 67, free shuttle service from Kennedy Plaza to the Providence/Newport ferry landing in India Point Park and the return of the South County Express Beach Bus.

R-Line Turns 10

On June 21, 2014, RIPTA launched the R-Line, Rhode Island's first bus rapid transit service, or specialized buses that run in dedicated traffic lanes and efficiently transport large numbers of riders. These specially branded buses make up RIPTA's busiest and most frequent service, connecting the cities of Providence, Cranston, and Pawtucket. The R-Line carries approximately 9,000 riders each day! As part of this project RIPTA also rolled out the state's first Transit Signal Priority a system that communicates with traffic lights to adjust red and green cycles in order to reduce the amount of time a bus spends waiting at a red light. That's a lot of firsts for this mighty transit agency! Fast forward to today where we are fully electrifying this route, converting 20% of all RIPTA passenger trips to zero-emissions.

Providence Transit Center Outreach

In addition to a virtual meeting, RIPTA staff was available to hear feedback and answer questions at the following events: Guild Beer Garden, Farm Fresh Amory Park Farmers Market, and Central Falls Salsa Night.

Skills for Rhode Island - CU4 Reality

RIPTA participated in the annual CU4 Reality financial literacy fair, a fun and interactive learning environment where students can practice financial management skills. Each student is assigned a career and then creates a budget based on their salary. As they visit different vendor tables, they decide how much of their budget to spend on food, clothing, housing, transportation, insurance, home furnishings, savings, investments, entertainment, and credit. From monthly payments to insurance, maintenance, and gas, car ownership is expensive. We were happy to share the benefits of public transit to get around Rhode Island, enabling students to keep more money in their pockets!

2024 Community Site Visits for Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Every month, RIPTA's Customer Service staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process Photo ID bus passes for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities with valid documentation. These statewide Photo ID Community Site Visits allow residents in both rural and urban areas to access transit information and apply for the Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program without having to travel to RIPTA offices in Providence.

RIPTA staff traveled to the Westerly Senior Center, South Kingstown Senior Center, East Providence Senior Center, and the Leon Mathieu Senior Center, Fogarty Manor and Kennedy Manor in Pawtucket.

Rhode Island Pride Illuminated Night Parade

The bus is for all of us! Our staff had a great time marching in the Rhode Island Pride parade on Saturday alongside Governor Dan McKee and Secretary of State Gregg Amore. RIPTA is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable and tolerant workplace.

Employee SPOTLIGHT

Julia Evelyn

Long-Range Planner

Julia Evelyn is an ideal fit in her role as long-range transportation planner in RIPTA's Planning Department. Her analytical, data-driven side complements her people skills, making her the perfect leader for large-scale projects that involve community input, working with other state agencies, and using data to make informed decisions.

After graduating from college in Minnesota, Julia worked for the city of Minneapolis's Sustainability Division, where she collaborated with a community advisory group to recognize constituent needs. This experience piqued her interest in government work. The New York native moved back to the East and found a meaningful position at RIPTA, continuing her sustainability and community outreach work.

Julia manages the Safe Streets for All program, which aims to address safety challenges on Rhode Island roads by combining data and community input to create individualized safety recommendations for towns and cities across the state. An excellent listener and eloquent speaker, she coordinates with community groups, town planners, police departments, social service providers, and the public, ensuring their voices are heard. For Julia, talking to the public is one of the most critical pieces of public service work. "The whole point of the government is to serve the constituents," she says. "If you're not asking them what they need or want, what are you doing?"

Julia's favorite part of her role is assembling the pieces of the "bus stop universe." As a key member of RIPTA's bus stop inventory project, she conducts field work to catalogue the condition of hundreds of bus stops and shelters across Rhode Island, aiming to improve the passenger experience. The data collected feeds into an online dashboard, which she can combine with additional figures like ridership data to create maps to answer questions such as where RIPTA should allocate its resources to make the most impact for the most people.

Outside of work, Julia enjoys playing in a recreational soccer league, walking her dog, hanging out with friends and family and exploring hiking trails around Rhode Island. With the scope and scale of the RIPTA's projects, we are so grateful to have such a collaborative, methodical helping to guide our path forward.



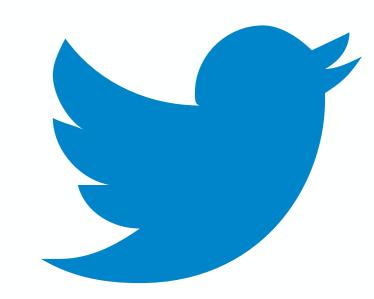
COMMENDATION

Operator Nikita Carrasquillo

"We were waiting at Kennedy Plaza for a long time for the bus to come. Some folks waiting over an hour. A supervisor arranged for an R-Line bus to switch over and take on the 56 route, a route unfamiliar to the driver. I was so impressed by how she handled the last-minute change, and jumped in to help folks get home after a long day. A regular rider in front helped guide her along the route which was especially difficult with some road closures."

- Jennifer S.





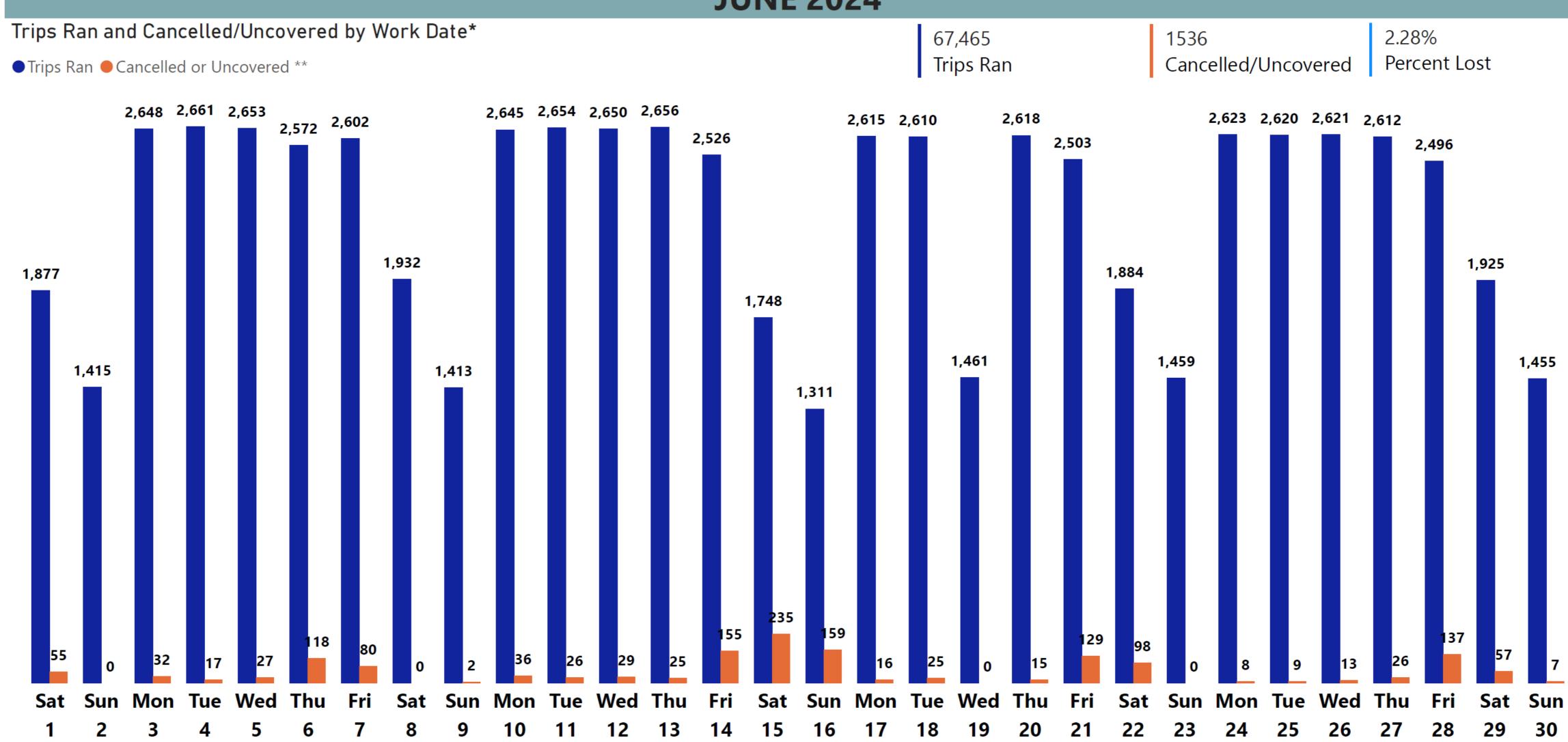


Cherie Cruz

@ConcernedRler

Thank you to all the advocates and @RIPTA_RI. Let's keep advocating to not only save current RIPTA services but to EXPAND.

LOST TRIPS by DAY JUNE 2024

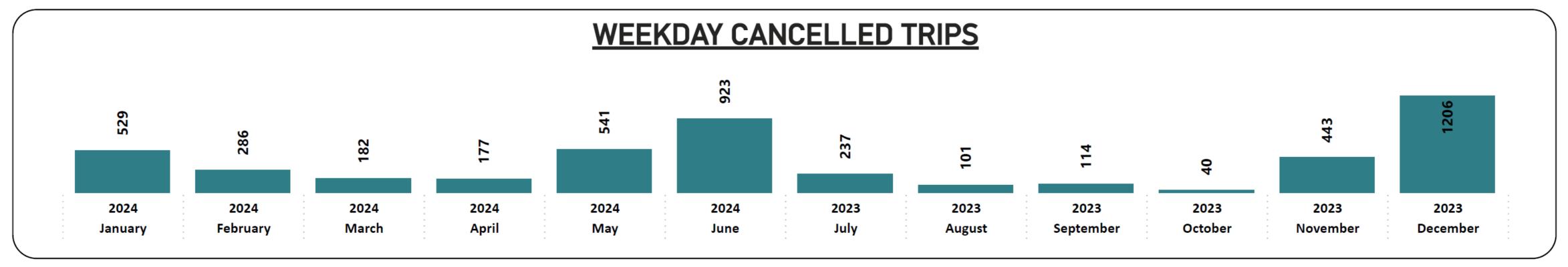


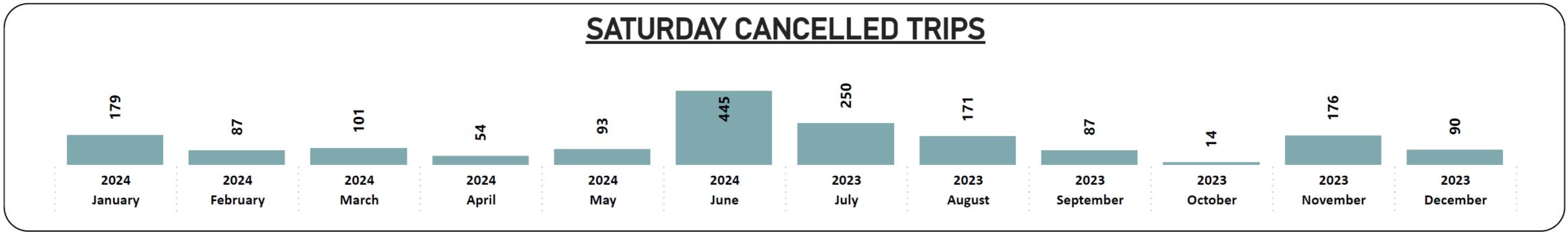
June

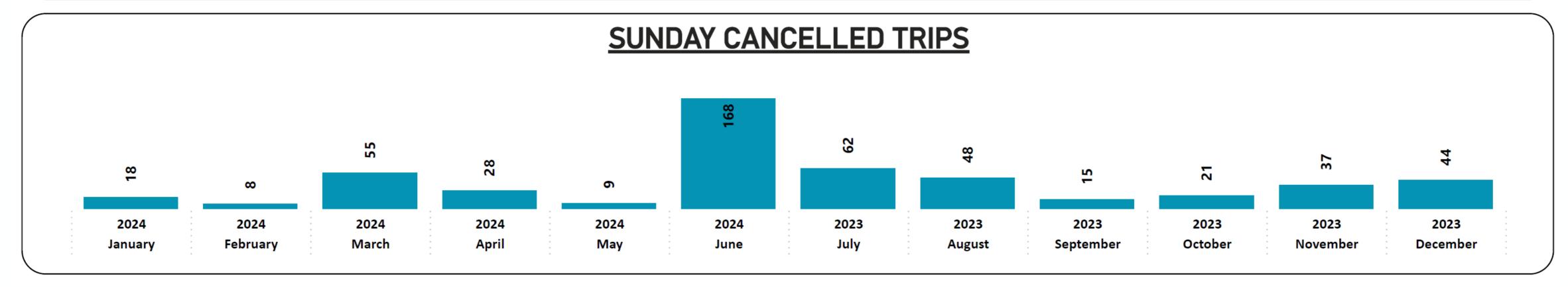
^{*} Counts based on regular trips

** Cancelled does not include Standby or School Cancelled trips

CANCELLED TRIPS by DAY of SERVICE







Budget to Actual - June 2024 (Preliminary Year-End)

	Monthly Current Year				
Budget-Actual FY 2024					
	Budget	Actual	VAR\$	VAR %	
Federal Subsidies	\$2,876,809	\$1,581,583	(\$1,295,226)	-45.0%	
Federal Subsidies-CARES Act	\$2,318,020	\$2,000,000	(\$318,020)	-13.7%	
State Subsidies	\$4,882,446	\$2,334,837	(\$2,547,609)	-52.2%	
Other Revenue	\$513,468	\$844,557	\$331,089	64.5%	
Passenger Fares	\$1,028,903	\$781,567	(\$247,337)	-24.0%	
Third Party Fares	\$947,755	\$973,430	\$25,675	2.7%	
Special Project Revenue	\$239,083	\$12,676	(\$226,407)	-94.7%	
Total Revenue	\$12,806,484	\$8,528,650	(\$4,277,834)	-33.4%	
	Budget	Actual	VAR\$	VAR %	
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	\$7,919,251	\$7,832,787	\$86,464	1.1%	
Contract Services	\$578,645	\$420,414	\$158,230	27.3%	
Operating Expense	\$2,116,441	\$2,385,058	(\$268,616)	-12.7%	
Utilities	\$188,974	\$139,078	\$49,896	26.4%	
Capital Match & Repayment	\$579,588	\$0	\$579,588	100.0%	
Debt Service	\$1,122,203	\$0	\$1,122,203	0.0%	
Special Projects	\$239,083	\$0	\$239,083	100.0%	
Total Expenses	\$12,744,185	\$10,777,337	\$1,966,848	15.4%	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$62,299	(\$2,248,687)	(\$2,310,986)		

- Federal Subsidies are lower due to timing of reimbursement requests.
- Gas tax is low in June though we expect a year-end adjustment based on June receipts.
- Salaries & Benefits are close to budgeted numbers for the month of June.
- Debt service is budgeted at the end of the year and the expense will show up in the final year-end financials.

Budget to Actual through June 30, 2024 (Preliminary Year-End)

	Year To Date Current Year				
Budget-Actual FY 2024					
	Budget	Actual	VAR\$	VAR %	
Federal Subsidies	\$34,521,704	\$28,558,946	(\$5,962,758)	-17.3%	
Federal Subsidies-CARES Act	\$27,816,242	\$22,587,367	(\$5,228,875)	-18.8%	
State Subsidies	\$48,310,212	\$45,477,856	(\$2,832,356)	-5.9%	
Other Revenue	\$6,074,519	\$8,251,188	\$2,176,669	35.8%	
Passenger Fares	\$13,164,719	\$10,777,739	(\$2,386,980)	-18.1%	
Third Party Fares	\$11,683,112	\$11,660,527	(\$22,586)	-0.2%	
Special Project Revenue	\$2,869,000	\$443,410	(\$2,425,590)	-84.5%	
Total Revenue	\$144,439,509	\$127,757,032	(\$16,682,476)	-11.5%	
	Budget	Actual	VAR\$	VAR %	
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	\$102,940,834	\$101,111,171	\$1,829,663	1.8%	
Contract Services	\$6,944,238	\$6,452,384	\$491,854	7.1%	
Operating Expense	\$27,322,262	\$19,525,103	\$7,797,159	28.5%	
Utilities	\$2,190,218	\$1,901,221	\$288,997	13.2%	
Capital Match & Repayment	\$1,050,755	\$0	\$1,050,755	100.0%	
Debt Service	\$1,122,203	\$0	\$1,122,203	0.0%	
Special Projects	\$2,869,000	\$100	\$2,868,900	100.0%	
Total Expenses	\$144,439,509	\$128,989,979	\$15,449,529	10.7%	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	(\$1,232,947)	(\$1,232,947)		

- Federal Subsidies are under budget overall, including the use of \$5M less than expected in relief funding.
- Other revenue is over budget due to pharmacy rebates.
- Passenger fare collections ended lower than expected.
- Overall year to date, expenses are lower than expected.
- Operating expenses are under budget due to lower fuel and maintenance costs.

MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

June 2024 System-wide Ridership:

Year ○2020 ○2021 ○2022 ○2023 ○2024





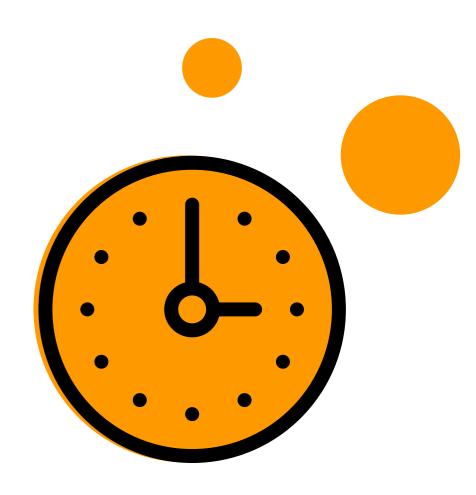
RIDERSHIP INCREASED 3.3% IN JUNE 2024 FROM JUNE 2023

Fixed-Route ridership counts come from the Automatic Passenger Counts (APCs) from UTA.

Flex and RIde Paratransit ridership counts come from Reveal tablets for RIde, and 3rd party reports for Taxi trips.

ON TIME PERFORMANCE (OTP): FIXED-ROUTE

	2024	2023	2022	2021
JUNE	74.9%	79.1%	80.2%	81.6%
MAY	73.4%	78.6%	81.1%	81.6%
APRIL	76.5%	81.3%	81.7%	83.2%
MARCH	78.3%	82.4%	82.2%	84.2%
FEBRUARY	78.3%	82.2%	81.3%	84.1%
JANUARY	77.3%	82.4%	82.2%	83.0%
DECEMBER		76.9%	80.2%	80.9%
NOVEMBER 1908		77.9%	79.2%	79.3%
OCTOBER		77.3%	78.3%	78.6%
SEPTEMBER		77.0%	78.1%	79.1%
AUGUST		79.3%	81.3%	81.5%
JULY		79.5%	81.0%	81.8%



On Time Performance

On Time Performance (OTP) is based on Departure Time. On Time is between 1 minute early and 5 minutes late.

ABBG AVERAGE: 79%



What Affected On Time Performance 2021 Through Today?

- Weather
- Construction
- Traffic Congestion accidents, detours, commuter traffic
- Academic Year increase in student ridership can result in longer boarding times
- Pandemic decrease in traffic and ridership resulted in earlier departure times
- Unforeseen Incidents mechanical issues, passenger incidents

Which Routes Have Experienced The Greatest Decrease in OTP from May 2021 to May 2024?

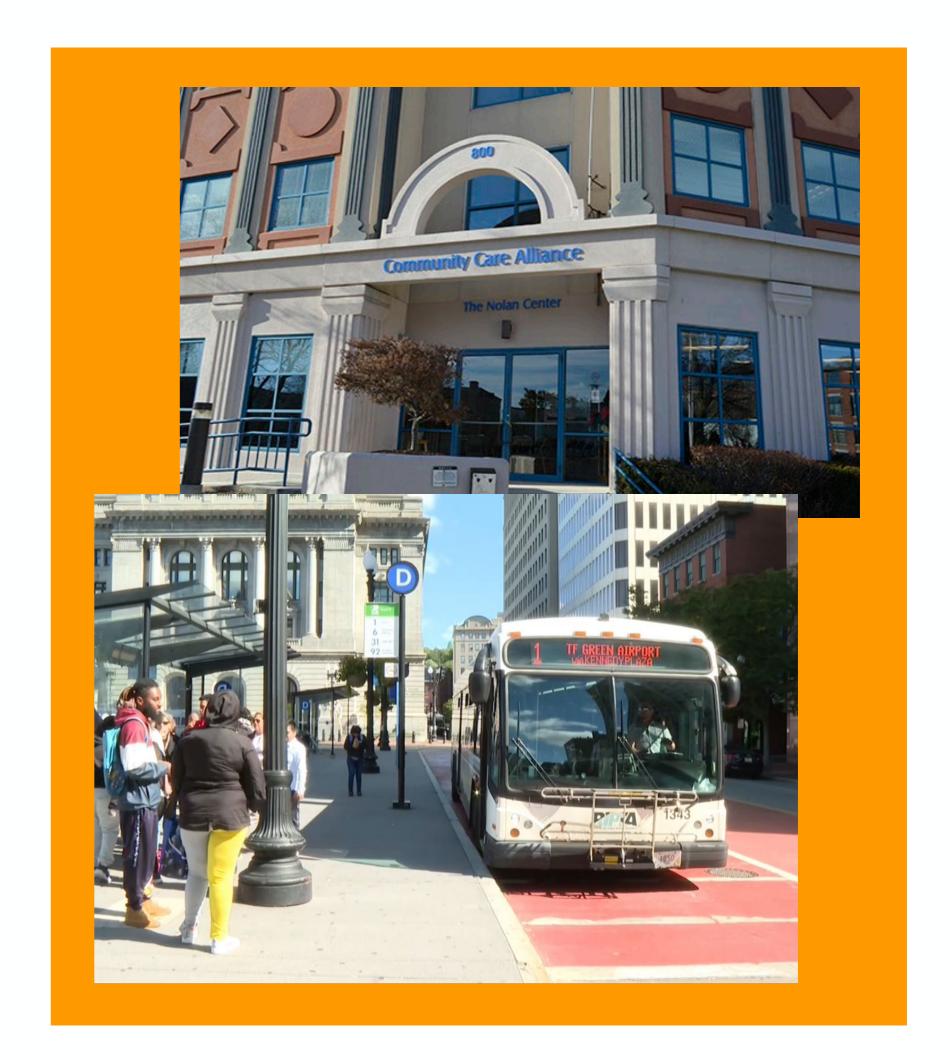
- Route 35 (Rumford/Newport Ave.)
- Route 78 (Beverage Hill/East Providence)
- Route 24L (Newport/Fall River/Providence)
- Route 10x (North Scituate Park & Ride)
- Route 30 (Arlington/Oaklawn)

- Route 32 (E. Providence/Wampanoag/Seekonk Sq)
- Route 13 (Coventry/Arctic/CCRI)
- Route 28 (Broadway/Hartford)
- Route 40 (Butler/Elmgrove)
- Route 33 (Riverside)

Routes in **bold** travel over the Washington or Henderson Bridge.

Low-Income Pilot Update

- In May, the Board of Directors authorized a new pilot program, through which Rhode Island-based organizations may apply to receive a 50% discount on fare products purchased on behalf of clients facing housing insecurity.
- This pilot launched on July 1 and will run through December 31, 2024.
- Organizations must submit applications to RIPTA describing:
 - How they serve low-income Rhode Islanders facing housing insecurity.
 - Their clients who would benefit from the pilot.
 - The process they would use to qualify participants.
 - The anticipated number of fare products they'll purchase each month.
- As of July 17, four of the eight organizations that applied for the discount have signed agreements in place. All have been approved.



- Task 2 of the Preliminary Services Agreement continues, with Task 2 activities and deliverables in progress.
- Workshop Meetings for the Communications, Site Analysis and Transit Center/TOD
 Design-Build working groups are continuing weekly or as needed.
- Workshop Meetings for the Commercial & Financial and the Operations & Management working groups are continuing bi-weekly or as needed.
- Bi-weekly Project Meetings with NWRIP managers is ongoing. Bi-weekly Internal RIPTA
 Team Meetings are held on the off weeks to coordinate PTC task activities, review
 deliverables and confirm next steps.
- RIPTA is undertaking a second round of stakeholder meetings to address questions and follow up on issues raised at initial meetings.

