

**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY** 

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## JULY 2024

MONTHLY FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** 









## **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 individual 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.

1:42 PM • June 6, 2024

### LOST SERVICE HOURS BY DAY

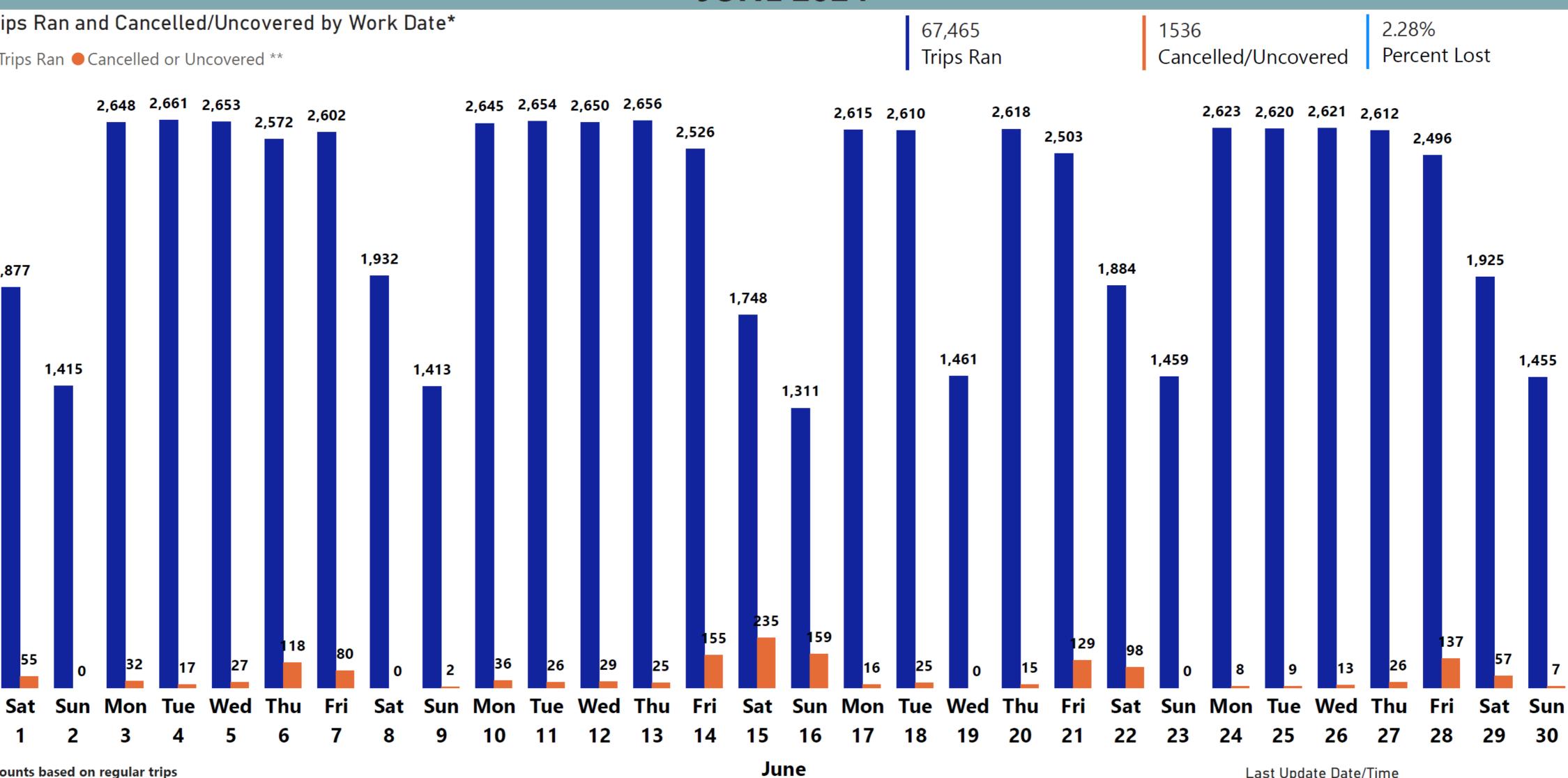
Trips Ran and Cancelled/Uncovered by Work Date\*

Trips Ran Cancelled or Uncovered \*\* 2,648 2,661 2,653 2,645 2,654 2,650 2,656 2,572 2,602 2,526 1,932 1,877 1,415 1,413 118 10 11 12 13 14 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 1 4

\* Counts based on regular trips

\*\* Cancelled does not include Standby or School Cancelled trips

## LOST TRIPS by DAY **JUNE 2024**



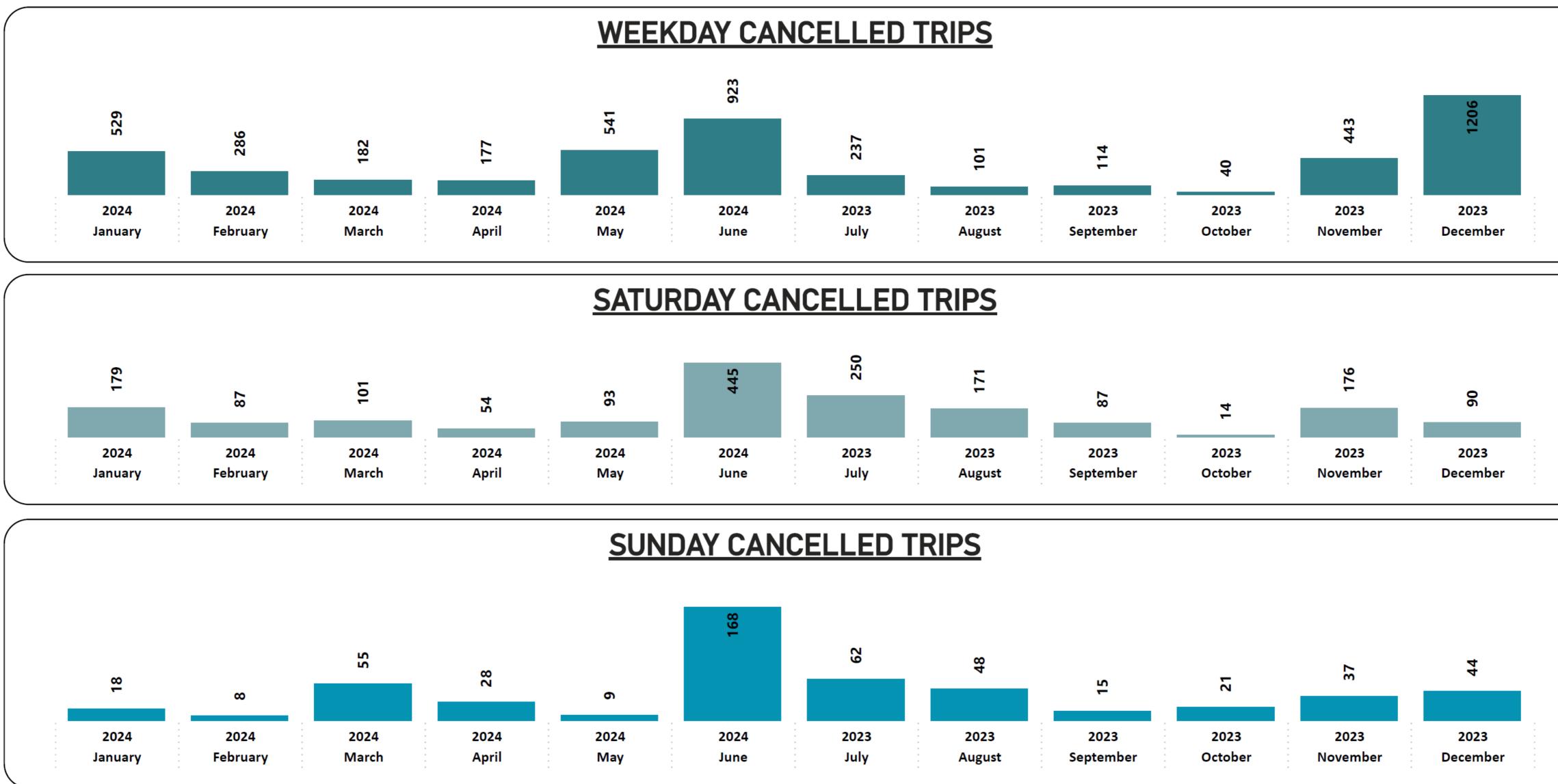
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### LOST SERVICE HOURS

### **CANCELLED TRIPS by DAY of SERVICE**





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

Budget-Actual FY 2024	Monthly				
	Current Year				
	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 <i>,</i> 468	\$844 <i>,</i> 557	\$331,089	64.5%	
Passenger Fares	\$1,028,903	\$781 <i>,</i> 567	(\$247,337)	-24.0%	
Third Party Fares	\$947,755	\$973 <i>,</i> 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 <i>,</i> 414	\$158,230	27.3%	
Operating Expense	\$2,116,441	\$2,385,058	(\$268,616)	-12.7%	
Utilities	\$188,974	\$139 <i>,</i> 078	\$49,896	26.4%	
Capital Match & Repayment	\$579 <i>,</i> 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)

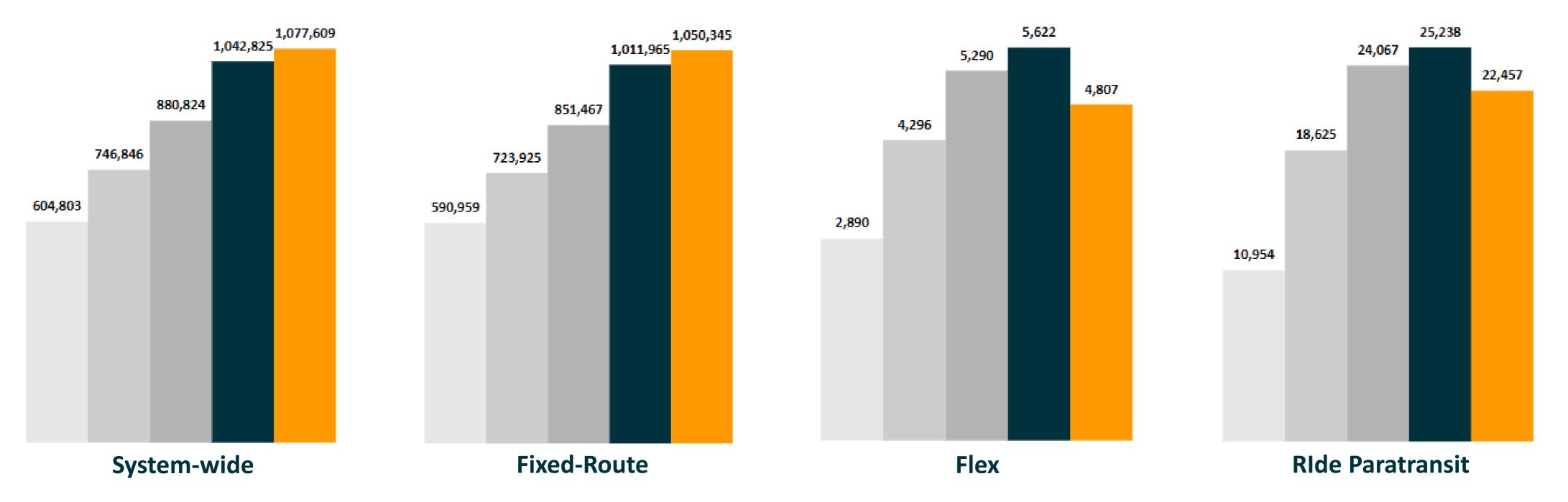
	Year To Date				
Budget-Actual FY 2024	Current Year				
	Budget	Actual	VAR \$	VAR %	
Federal Subsidies	\$34,521,704	\$28,558,946	(\$5,962,758)	-17.3%	
Federal Subsidies-CARES Act	\$27,816,242	\$22,587,367	(\$5,228,875)	-18.8%	
State Subsidies	\$48,310,212	\$45,477,856	(\$2,832,356)	-5.9%	
Other Revenue	\$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 <i>,</i> 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:

### 2020 = 2021 = 2022 = 2023 = 2024Year



### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> party reports for Taxi trips.



## ON TIME PERFORMANCE (OTP): FIXED-ROUTE

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

OTP DECREASED BY 4.2% IN JUNE 2024 FROM JUNE 2023

HI	2021
, )	81.6%
5	81.6%
5	83.2%
5	84.2%
5	84.1%
	83.0%
5	80.9%
<b>FU</b>	79.3%
5	78.6%
	79.1%
, )	81.5%
<b>,</b>	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)

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

- Route 32 (E. Providence/Wampanoag/Seekonk Sq)
- Route 13 (Coventry/Arctic/CCRI)

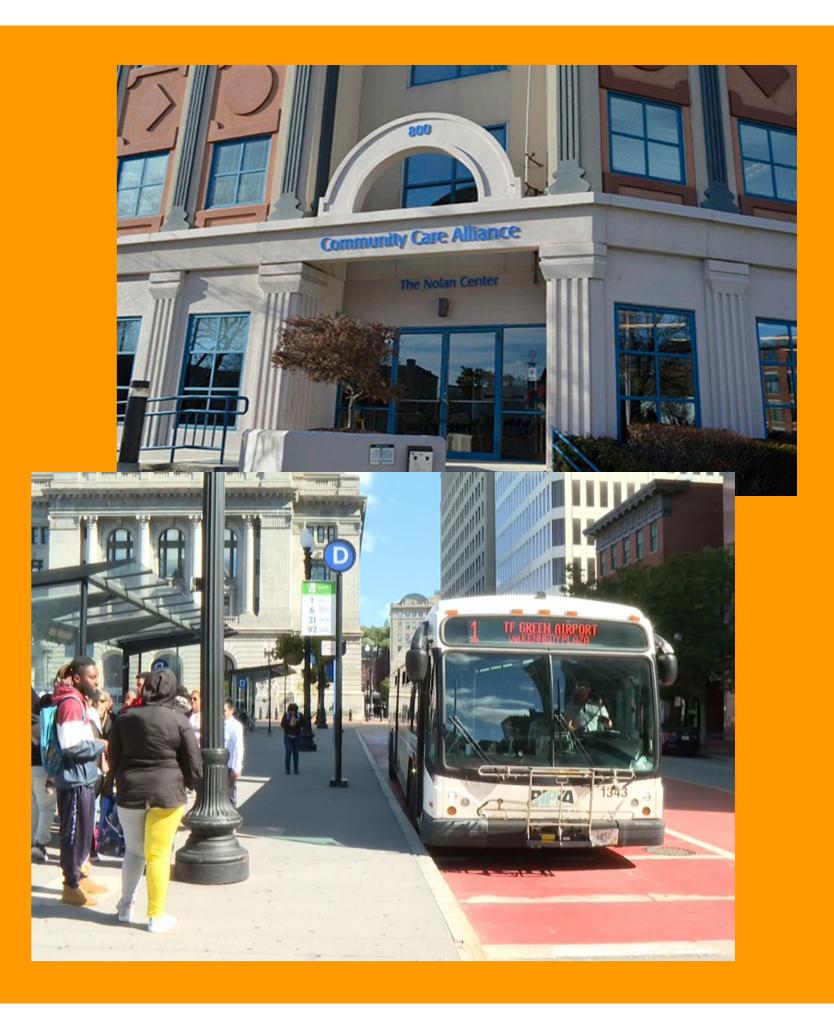
- Route 33 (Riverside)



- Route 28 (Broadway/Hartford)
- Route 40 (Butler/Elmgrove)

## **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. lacksquare
- Organizations must submit applications to RIPTA describing:
  - How they serve low-income Rhode Islanders facing housing insecurity. lacksquare
  - 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.

