



RIPTA AND QUONSET LAUNCH PILOT TRANSIT SERVICE TO QUONSET BUSINESS PARK



Free Trial Period Will Be Offered Through Mid-April 2019

RIPTA is excited about a new pilot program which brings bus service to businesses at the Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown. The new service, called the QX Express, began on January 22, and RIPTA is offering the first three months for free to give people a chance to see how public transit can work for them. The pilot program consists of two non-stop, express trips from Kennedy Plaza in Providence to Quonset in the morning, and two express trips back to Providence in the afternoon on weekdays. Buses will make eleven stops within the Park, with locations including Electric Boat, Toray Plastics and the Ocean State Job Lot Distribution Center.

The morning routes are early to accommodate some companies' shift times, but there are still plenty of connecting routes that can get people from communities around Providence to Kennedy Plaza in time to catch the new QX express. They include Routes 1, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, and 35. The QX leaves Kennedy Plaza from Stop I. RIPTA is monitoring ridership on the new route for planning purposes so give it a try and bring a co-worker!

Need help planning your trip? Email commuter@RIPTA.com. Our team of transit specialists will help you plan a greener commute.

SNOW REMOVAL FROM BUS SHELTERS

RIPTA has approximately 4,000 bus stops throughout the state and does not have the ability to clear snow from all those locations.



We rely on municipal governments, businesses and property owners to help with pedestrian safety by keeping sidewalks and bus stops clear. RIPTA does remove snow and ice at its transit hubs, such as Kennedy Plaza, and has hired a contractor to remove snow around the stops on the busy R-Line which runs from the Cranston-Providence line into downtown Pawtucket.

Since last winter, under a shelter contract, [Street Smart Outdoor Advertising](#), is now responsible for clearing snow and ice from our roughly 285 shelters across the state within 24 to 48 hours after a storm.

Within 24 hours of snowfall, [Street Smart Outdoor Advertising](#) crews clear snow and ice from these [100 key stops](#) along major bus routes; the remaining shelters will be cleaned within 48 hours of snowfall.

If there's an issue with your bus shelter, please contact info@streetsmartoutdoor.com or call 888-468-1414.

NEW WHEELS: SMALLER, DODGE VANS JOIN RIdE PROGRAM'S PARATRANSIT FLEET

RIPTA recently acquired five Dodge Caravan passenger vans for its RIdE program as it continues to explore efficiencies that may result from diversifying its paratransit fleet. The vehicles are expected to be in use this month as our RIdE staff finishes extensive training and testing to see how the smaller vehicles meet passenger needs.

RIPTA's RIdE program, administered in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), provides transportation for passengers whose disabilities prevent them from being able to use regular fixed-route bus service. Up until

now, our Ride fleet has consisted of 16-passenger vans which work very well. We're looking at the smaller Caravans to see how they will work for trips that only have a couple of passengers and we'd like to share some information about the new vehicles.



- The Dodge Caravans have side wheelchair ramps rather than the mechanical lifts that the 16-passenger vehicles are equipped with. These ramps are compliant with ADA and federal paratransit regulations, but they are narrower. These ramps are 30 inches wide as opposed to the 31 to 32 inch wide ramps we generally have on the larger vehicles. The Caravan will not be scheduled for passengers whose wheelchairs cannot fit on the ramp.

- In order to ensure passenger comfort, the maximum the Carvans will carry is three ambulatory passengers and one wheelchair client.
- The new Caravans are more fuel efficient and use gas, not diesel. We do want customers to know that they are also quieter. This may be an adjustment for some visually impaired customers who have told us that they listen for the sound of the vehicle approaching.
- Our Ride team is very interested in driver and passenger feedback. If customers would like to share their experience after riding on the new Caravans, they can email jsolomon@ripta.com or call 401-781-9500 x1430.

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PRESIDENTS DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Just a reminder that RIPTA is running a regular schedule on Presidents Day.

[Click here](#) to view a list of legal holidays that will be observed by RIPTA in 2019.



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