



Regular Service on Presidents Day

Just a reminder that RIPTA is running a regular schedule on Presidents Day, Monday, February 19, 2024. [Click here](#) to view a list of legal holidays that RIPTA will observe in 2024.



Renovation Work Slated to Begin Next Month on Historic Bus Tunnel

Work is slated to start at the end of March to repair and renovate the historic East Side

Transit Tunnel in Providence. This critical piece of transit infrastructure was built in 1914 to help former trolley lines reach the top of College Hill as they traveled from downtown Providence to the East Side and beyond. The tunnel is still a vital connector today, allowing buses to avoid the steep incline of College Hill.

The project will include improving lighting and drainage in the tunnel, replacing the concrete coating inside the tunnel, asphalt repaving and refurbishing the historic bus shelter at the west end of the tunnel on North Main Street.

Work is expected to last from the end of March through mid-September, with the specific start date being weather dependent. The tunnel will be closed for the duration of the project and detours will be announced although no impact on travel times is expected. Routes 1, 32, 33, 34, and 40 will be affected.

Critical Driver Shortage Leads to Proposed Service Changes

Public Hearings Scheduled Statewide for February

RIPTA will hold public hearings regarding proposed service changes on February 12 - 15, on February 19, and on February 21, 2024.

The proposed changes are the direct result of a critical workforce shortage. Despite extensive recruitment efforts by RIPTA, drivers continue to retire more quickly than new ones can be hired. The Authority is one of dozens in the country facing the same labor challenges and difficult decisions due to the driver shortage.

RIPTA is proposing changes to Routes 4, 6, 9x, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 29, 30, 51, 54, 58, 64, 65x, 69, 71, 72, 75, 87, 92 and 95x and the elimination of Routes QX, 10x, 12x, 23, 59x, 61x, 68, 73, 76, 80 and 88. Additionally, emergency temporary service changes made in Fall 2022 to Routes 22, 27, 28, 31, 50, 55, 56, 57, 60, 63, and 67 will also be addressed.

For more information, including hearing dates and times, and a complete list of the proposed changes, please visit [RIPTA.com/PublicHearings](https://ripta.com/publichearings).



PUBLIC HEARING DATES:

FEBRUARY 12 – 15, FEBRUARY 19 & 21, 2024

Visit [RIPTA.com/PublicHearings](https://ripta.com/publichearings) for details.



New Class C CDL Training Program

RIPTA is now offering a new Class C CDL training program!

RIPTA invests in the long-term success of its trainees by covering \$10,000 in complete training costs and providing a range of additional benefits. Prepare for your Class C CDL test through our in-depth training program, and once you acquire your CDL, you can be hired as a RIPTA paratransit driver!

[Click here](#) to watch a video about this new program. Featured in the video are our own RIPTA Trainees (now paratransit drivers!) Dennis and Thomas. They were naturals when it came to showing the audience a glimpse of the training program in action.

Want to take part in this awesome program? Visit [RIPTA.com/careers](https://ripta.com/careers) today and apply to become a Paratransit CDL Trainee!

Changes to RIPTA's Low-Income Pilot Program

RIPTA riders who enrolled in the low-income pilot program last year must contact the community organization that assisted them with their application if they wish to continue participating! For February, March, and April, selected partner agencies will add monthly passes to pilot participants' photo ID Wave cards on request, giving them unlimited access to the bus network.

For more details, including the full list of partners, [click here](#).

RIPTA Announces Phase 1 of Transit Center Project

Phase 1 of RIPTA's Providence Transit Center Project is officially underway! RIPTA's newest transit center in Providence will provide millions of trips

annually and feature a state-of-the-art temperature-controlled passenger arrival and seating area as well as staff break areas.

The project public-private partnership is a joint effort between RIPTA and Next Wave Rhode Island

Partners - a group of Rhode Island-based companies with a record of successful community-based projects in downtown Providence including 100 Westminster Street, Union Station, the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Your opinion matters! Look out for calls for public comments in the next few months as RIPTA and its partners gather feedback for the new transit center.

For more information, [click here](#).



Employee Spotlight

Marc Abbott, Systems Performance Analyst

Details and data are at the heart of Marc Abbott's work for RIPTA. As a Systems Performance Analyst, he compiles spreadsheets and reports that track vital data which helps the transit authority run as efficiently as possible. In particular, he looks at ridership numbers, patterns and trends.

"I love what I do, because I know that the information I give our executive staff allows them to make decisions based on sound data," Abbott said. Nearly two years ago, he joined RIPTA after a career in the military and government, where he consistently prioritized accuracy in reporting information and working with good data. Abbott served 22 years in the Rhode Island National Guard, four years in the Army Reserve, and worked full time as a civilian employee for the U.S. Department of Defense.

He has held several positions, but said he found his passion for data when he was assigned to the U.S. Property & Fiscal Office as an analyst. It was his job to keep track of inventory and make sure that any units that were deployed had every piece of equipment they needed, "And if we didn't have it," he says. "It was my job to find it." He held a similar position at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, MA before retiring in 2019.

Saying that Abbott likes to be busy is an understatement. Following his military retirement, he held a number of jobs including driving cranes before he decided to apply to RIPTA. "I like a challenge," Abbott said. "I like to take something that's complicated and make it easy for people to understand." He says being at RIPTA feels like a great fit, and he likes being part of an agency that is dedicated to serving the public.



We love Marc's energy! We are proud to have him as a member of a team and we are also grateful for his service to our country.

Fall in Love This Valentine's Day - With a New Career!

Join our team! RIPTA is an established organization that offers career growth and excellent benefits including a pension plan.

DRIVE YOUR CAREER FORWARD
NOW HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM!

- GROWTH ORIENTED
- OUTSTANDING BENEFITS
- VARIETY OF CAREER PATHS

RIPTA
 RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Attend the **RIPTA Career Fair** on **Thursday, February 15, 2024** from **10am to 3pm** at 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Financial Analyst-Capital and Grants
- Executive Director of Facilities & Maintenance
- Utility Worker
- Mechanic
- Paratransit Operator
- Paratransit CDL Trainee

RIPTA Offers:

- Competitive Wages
- Pension Plan
- Health Benefits
- 457 Deferred Comp
- Dental Coverage
- Optional Life Insurance
- Vision Coverage
- Paid Vacation and Personal Time
- Flexible Spending Account
- Paid Sick Time
- Uniform Allowance

Visit [RIPTA.com/careers](https://ripta.com/careers) for more information.



Kennedy Plaza Photo ID Office to Reopen Four Days a Week

Starting March 1, 2024, the Photo ID Office in Kennedy Plaza will be open Monday through

Wednesday and on Friday from 7:30am to 12pm and 1pm to 3:30pm. The Photo ID Office will be closed on Thursdays for **Community Site Visits**, also known as Photo ID Road Trips.

The satellite Photo ID Office located at RIPTA Headquarters will be permanently closed as of March 1, 2024, in order to reallocate staffing resources to the

Kennedy Plaza office.

Passengers who wish to process their bus pass applications online or via mail, can continue to do so. Visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare) for details.

RIPTA Photo ID Bus Pass Road Trips

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process bus pass applications for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to get to our office in Providence. Staff also provides travel training.



RIPTA staff will process Photo ID bus passes at the following locations:

PAWTUCKET

Thursday, February 8 • 10am - 12pm
Leon Mathieu Senior Center
420 Main Street

WOONSOCKET

Thursday, February 15 • 10am - 12pm
Woonsocket Senior Center
84 Social Street

Photo ID bus passes cost \$10 and are valid for two years.

[Click here](#) to view upcoming RIPTA Photo ID Road Trips.

For information on how to qualify for RIPTA's Bus Pass Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities, customers can call (401) 784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare).



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