



New CDL Test Prep Program Sparks Overwhelming Interest

Last month, RIPTA announced a new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Prep Course Program. This innovative CDL test prep course program, in partnership with the Rhode Island Institute for Labor Studies & Research (ILSR), is designed to attract and prepare new drivers in obtaining their CDL permit while getting paid.

Participants have the opportunity to earn \$25.33 per hour as they prepare for their CDL permit test in an instructor-led classroom.

Over 200 people expressed interest in this new program at RIPTA's recent job fair on Tuesday, June 18. Both Rhode Island Current and NBC 10 reported on the overwhelming turnout. During the job fair, qualified applicants were able to participate in on-site interviews, receive conditional offers of employment and enroll in this new CDL test prep program.

Key Features of the CDL Prep Course Program

- **Earn While You Learn:** Participants will receive \$25.33 per hour while studying for their CDL permit test.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** RIPTA and ILSR will work with your schedule to ensure you can balance your studies and personal commitments.



Pictured Left to Right - ILSR staff seated at desk next to ATU President Walter Melillo and RIPTA interim CEO Christopher Durand

• **No Experience Necessary:** This program is designed for those who are new to the field and looking to start a career in transportation.

Applicants must be 21 years of age with a valid Rhode Island driver's license for at least three years and have a clean BCI. No experience necessary.

Missed the job fair and still interested in applying for this course? Get on the road to driving for RIPTA by applying [here](#).



Thank you for keeping RIPTA moving!

Last month, elected officials solidified their commitment to public transit by voting to allocate funds to help RIPTA address our operational financial

deficit.

“I would like to thank Governor Dan McKee and the General Assembly for providing \$15 million in funding to support transit services,” said Christopher Durand, RIPTA interim Chief Executive Officer. “Additionally, I appreciate the over \$19 million in capital support, which will leverage an additional \$80 million in federal transit funding for facility improvements and bus purchases.”

We'd also like to thank our transit advocates for their continued support and dedication! We appreciate your efforts in campaigning to your local elected officials.

Expanded Customer Service Hours

Starting Saturday, July 6, RIPTA's Customer Service Call Center will be open on weekends! The new hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and Saturday and Sunday from 8 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM.

This expansion aims to provide more comprehensive support to our passengers, ensuring that they have access to the information and assistance they need, even on weekends. The decision to extend hours comes as part of RIPTA's ongoing commitment to enhancing customer service and improving the overall passenger experience.



Passengers can reach the Customer Service Call Center by calling 401-784-9500 x2012.

Providence Streets Coalition's Second Annual Beach Day!

It's time for another day at the beach as the [Providence Streets Coalition](#) hops aboard RIPTA's hottest summer service - the [Express Beach Bus](#) - for its second annual **Transit Oriented Beach Day!**



Interested in joining fellow sunseekers and connecting with a community of bus and beach loving friends? Meet at Kennedy Plaza Bus Stop X (Exchange Terrace) for the 9:30 AM departure on Sunday, July 21. Depart the beach at 3:05 PM and return back to Kennedy Plaza at 4:19 PM. RSVP to info@ourstreetspvd.org.

Providence/Newport Ferry Shuttle

Going for a ride on the [Providence/Newport Ferry](#)? RIPTA can take you there! RIPTA is offering free shuttle service to the ferry terminal in Providence.



Ferry Shuttle

Board the [free shuttle van](#) at the Providence Train Station, Kennedy Plaza Bus Stop X or the RI Convention Center.

Newport riders who want to take the ferry back to Providence can grab a free ride on the [Route 67 and 68 buses](#), both of which stop at the Newport Transportation

Center, located just down the street from the City's Perrotti Park ferry docks.

Governor's Bay Day

In celebration of Governor's Bay Day, RIPTA will waive the roundtrip fare on all South County Express Beach Bus service on Sunday, July 28, 2024.

The South County Express Beach Bus provides weekend only express service from Central Falls, Cranston, North Providence, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket to Salty Brine, Roger Wheeler (Sand Hill Cove) and Scarborough State Beaches in South County.

For Governor's Bay Day, service to the beach will be provided on a first come, first served basis. The standard fare of \$2.00, suspended for Bay Day, will resume on Monday, July 29. Please [click here](#) for the beach bus schedule. Need help planning your beach trip? Email CustomerService@ripta.com.

Safe Streets for All!

What concerns do you have about roadway safety in Rhode Island? RIPTA is launching a summer-long public engagement campaign for our RI Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

project, and we want to hear from you. Share your input by filling out our [statewide survey](#) or by meeting us in person at one of the events we'll be attending across the state over the next few months.



Safe Streets for All

RIPTA secured funding through the federal SS4A program to support the state and 32 participating communities in planning for infrastructure improvements that will prevent injuries and save lives. Visit [RIPTA.com/SafeStreets](https://ripta.com/SafeStreets) to learn more.

Moving Forward RI 2050 Public Workshops

Help shape our state’s 25-year transportation plan by sharing your experience!

The Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning (RIDSP) is updating the state’s Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and they want your input!

Join us at our public workshops!



June 24th 5PM - 7PM
Newport Public Library,
Friends Room
300 Spring St, Newport RI

July 9th 5PM – 7PM
Pawtucket Public Library,
Campbell Auditorium
13 Summer St, Pawtucket RI

July 16th 5:30PM – 7:30PM
West Warwick Public Library,
Nash Room
1034 Main St, West Warwick RI

Share your experience travelling around Rhode Island and **help shape our state’s 25-year transportation plan.**

July 22nd 12PM - 1PM
Virtual - Zoom
Register at link in bio

July 22nd 5:30PM - 6:30PM
Virtual - Zoom
Register at link in bio



All locations are ADA accessible. Snacks provided. Translation services and additional ADA accommodations available, please e-mail Benny.Bergantino@doa.ri.gov.

Graphic listing upcoming workshops

What is the Long-Range Transportation Plan? The LRTP is a federally-required plan that sets the vision for a multi-modal transportation system - our roads, bridges, public transit, bike paths, sidewalks, ports, and more - over the next 25 years.

This is an opportunity for you to provide input on how transit and the Transit Master Plan should help shape Moving Forward RI 2050.

Attend one of the following public workshops to learn more and voice your opinion:

Tuesday, July 9 • 5 PM – 7 PM
Pawtucket Public Library, Campbell Auditorium
13 Summer Street, Pawtucket RI

Tuesday, July 16 • 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
West Warwick Public Library, Nash Room

1034 Main Street, West Warwick RI

Monday, July 22 • 12 PM – 1 PM

Virtual - Zoom [Register Here](#).

Monday, July 22 • 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Virtual - Zoom [Register Here](#).

Questions? Contact the Project Manager Liza Farr at liza.farr@doa.ri.gov or 401-222-6479

New Pilot Program Enables Organizations to Jointly Fund Transportation for Low-Income Riders

Does your organization support low-income clients who are experiencing housing insecurity or are at risk of homelessness? RIPTA is seeking partners for a six-month pilot program to jointly fund transportation for these riders. Community-based organizations, state agencies, and collaborative partnerships are invited to submit applications for the program to pilot@ripta.com on a rolling basis. If approved, partners will receive a 50% discount on fare products for clients through institutional low-income pilot Wave accounts until December 31, 2024 or when allocated funds are exhausted, whichever comes sooner.

Employee Spotlight

Stephanie LeFrancois, Night Foreman

RIPTA has been a part of Stephanie LeFrancois' family across generations.

Stephanie's father,

Steven Robinson, worked as a Mechanic at RIPTA before he became a Mechanical Foreman. "My father convinced me to come here, and my father worked here for 37 years," she fondly recalls. Born and raised in Warwick, Stephanie is the Night Foreman, working from midnight to 8 AM to ensure that all bus routes and driver shifts are fully covered for the day.



Her career journey started in retail, working at Macy's as a stockroom employee for over six years. "I took a little time to spend some time with my kids and then I started with the school bus company," she remembers. Within a year, she acquired her CDL and gained enough driving knowledge to secure a job at RIPTA as a Clerk in the Transportation Division. After about six years of dedicated work in that role, she made the move up to her current foreman position, now in her second year.

With greater responsibilities come greater challenges - especially in the wake of a driver shortage. "The most difficult thing is choosing which jobs to cut because no matter what I cut, it's affecting people," Stephanie said. As the Night Foreman, she must decide which trips to cancel when there aren't enough drivers available.

Walking the property, marking down where the buses are, and assigning buses to drivers are all part of a typical work week for Stephanie. A sense of freedom is what she loves most about her job, and she hopes to move into a Relief Superintendent position in the future. It's clear that Stephanie is carrying on her family's legacy through her work in the Transportation Office.

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 Kennedy Plaza. Staff also provide travel training.

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

WOONSOCKET

Thursday, July 11 • 9 AM - 11 AM
Woonsocket Senior Center
84 Social Street

NEWPORT

Thursday, July 18 • 10 AM - 12 PM



William Donovan Manor
19 Chapel 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://ripta.com/ReducedFare).

SERVICE ALERTS

HOLIDAY SERVICE

RIPTA Observes Fourth of July

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All RIPTA offices will be closed on the holiday, except for the Customer Service Kiosk in the Newport Transportation Center. [Click here](#) for details.

DETOURS

East Side Tunnel Closure: Now through September 2024

Routes 1, 32, 33, 34, 40 and 61x are on detour through mid-September.

Oakland Beach Fireworks Celebration: Wednesday, July 3

Route 3 will be on detour from 5 PM to Midnight. The Suburban Parkway will be closed during this time.

North Providence Fireworks Celebration: Wednesday, July 3

Route 50 will be on detour from 8:45 PM to 9:45 PM.

Saint Mary's Feast Road Race: Saturday, July 20

Routes 17 and 30 will be on detour from 8 AM to 9:15 AM.

Blessing of the Fleet Road Race: Friday, July 26

Routes 14 and 69 will be on detour from 3:30 PM to 9 PM.

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://ripta.com/alerts) for details on upcoming detours.



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