



## RIPTA Celebrates Memorial Day

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

All RIPTA offices will be closed.

[Click here](#) for details.



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023**  
**SUNDAY/HOLIDAY SERVICE**  
**RIPTA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED**



## Public Hearings for Proposed Changes to Routes 14 and 282 Flex

RIPTA will hold public hearings on proposed service changes to Route 14 (West Bay) and 282 Flex (Pascoag/Slatersville). RIPTA is

proposing to deviate Route 14 to serve the Wickford Junction Train Station and to extend 282 Flex Service to Dino's Park-N-Shop in Chepachet upon request.

### PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

#### Monday, May 8, 2023

Burrillville Town Hall

105 Harrisville Main Street, Burrillville, RI

Time: 4:15pm – 5:15pm

#### Wednesday, May 10, 2023

North Kingstown Town Hall

80 Boston Neck Road, North Kingstown, RI

Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

[Click here](#) for details.



**Let's Ride RI Commuter Challenge**

In recognition of National Bike Month, our Commuter Resource RI team is launching a Let's Ride RI Commuter Bike Challenge beginning on Monday, May 1 and ending on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

It's free and easy to participate! [Click here](#) to create an account and start logging your bike trips. **The more you bike to work, the more chances you have to win prizes.** You don't have to bike all the way every day, just one bike trip to your local bus or train stop during the challenge counts!

Bike to Work Month is a fun and engaging way to encourage people to try the healthy option of pedal power for part or all of their commute, rather than relying on automobiles. Choosing to ride a bicycle to work offers many benefits including saving money, boosting morale and health, reducing traffic congestion and reducing harmful automobile emissions.

Biking and taking the bus can be a winning combination for people who want to ride part of the way to work and then take public transportation. All of RIPTA's fixed-route buses are equipped with bicycle racks.

[Click here](#) to find out where our team will be and where you can enter to win prizes! Questions? Email [commuter@ripta.com](mailto:commuter@ripta.com).

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## More Ways to Get Around Rhode Island!

Learn about all transportation options available in your town by visiting the new [Transportation in Your Community](#) feature on RIPTA's website. RIPTA developed this resource to make it easier for older adults, people with disabilities, and others to find trip planning information from multiple transportation providers in the state.



Click on the Transportation in Your Community map icon on our [homepage](#) to access the information or follow the drop down menu under the Riders tab. From the main [Transportation in Your Community](#) page, click on the blue buttons labeled for each Rhode Island municipality. There you'll find RIPTA routes that stop in each town along with other local services such as senior shuttles, taxis, trains, and volunteer driver programs.

If you have any trouble using this feature, call RIPTA's Customer Service Department at (401) 784-9500 x2012 for assistance.

## Increased Ridership From R-Line Free-Fare Pilot Program May Assist Businesses Too

Initial data shows that the free fare pilot program on the popular R-Line is resulting in increased ridership. And we are now also doing further research to see how ridership trends affect businesses along the R-Line route, which runs from the Providence-Cranston line into Pawtucket. Our friendly consultants recently visited local businesses to get their valuable feedback. Some local shops have already noticed a difference, with business owners noting that the free service benefits their employees as well as customers.

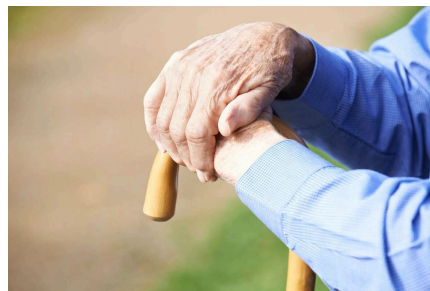


*RIPTA outreach consultants visit businesses along the R-Line this week.*

## New Statewide Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Following a year-long inclusive planning process, the [RI Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan](#)

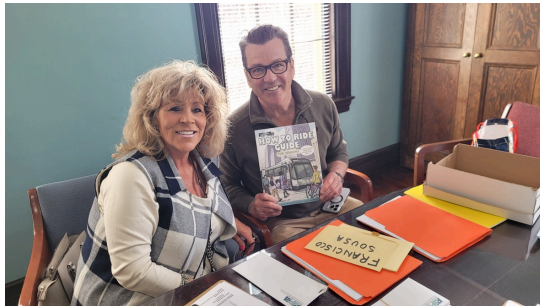
(known as the Coordinated Plan) was adopted by the state Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council and is now available for viewing on RIPTA's website. The Federal Transit Administration requires this plan to be updated every 5 years, and all projects selected for FTA Section 5310 funding for Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities must be included. It identifies the transportation needs of these specific groups, provides



strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.

## Progress on New Providence Transit Center

RIPTA continues to make progress in creating a new downtown transit center that will meet the needs of our riders and support the downtown area. The period for interested private parties to submit proposals to design build finance, operate and maintain the new center on Dorrance Street recently closed and RIPTA will begin reviewing the proposals. This public-private project will utilize state and federal funds and will enhance the ridership experience for our passengers. [Click here](#) to read the latest project newsletter:



## RIPTA Photo ID Bus Pass Road Trips

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will travel to communities throughout the state to provide bus passes to 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:

#### SMITHFIELD

Tuesday, May 23 • 1pm - 3pm  
Smithfield Senior Center  
1 William J Hawkins Jr. Trail

#### PAWTUCKET

Wednesday, May 31 • 10am-12pm  
Leon Mathieu Senior Center  
420 Main Street

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

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).

## Employee Spotlight

### Louie Medeiros, Diesel Mechanic

Who do you call when you're driving a 20-ton bus and it breaks down?

At RIPTA, you call Louie Medeiros, one of our top-notch diesel mechanics who staffs our mobile service truck, which is much like our own AAA roadside assistance for public transportation.



*Louie Medeiros stands in front of RIPTA vehicle*

With 48 years of experience at RIPTA, Louie is our most senior mechanic, much-loved and respected for his expertise and never-failing positive attitude. "There isn't much I can't fix on the road," he says with his characteristic smile and lilt of an accent from growing up in the Azores. "And if I can't fix it, I use my truck to push the bus off the road and get it out of the way until we can get it towed."

Louie drives a heavy-duty service truck that is equipped with, well, pretty much everything he might need for roadside repairs. Oil leaks, faulty wheelchair lifts, broken sideview mirrors, ignition and battery problems, snapped fanbelts, and stuck windshield wipers are just a few of the problems that he must tackle. There isn't much he hasn't seen and he has the experience to handle it all.

Louie started at RIPTA in 1975 cleaning and fueling buses. He had worked at private auto garages before coming to RIPTA, and about a year after starting here, he began working as a mechanic in our RIde paratransit division. After 37 years there, he decided to take his skills on the road with our daytime mobile service truck. (RIPTA has three service trucks, with two in Providence and one in Newport. Typically, only one, the lead truck with Louie, is in service at a time.)

Louie starts his days early and doesn't wait for things to go wrong. He is in the bus yard at about 3:30 am, starting up dozens of buses and helping move them into position to start their routes. He says he's seen countless changes in the transit industry over the years, including the construction of RIPTA's Chafee Maintenance Facility, the passenger terminal at Kennedy Plaza and, most recently, the new Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center. The buses have evolved as well, with RIPTA's fleet now including zero-emission electric buses.

For all his mechanical knowledge, Louie says it is interacting with all the people at RIPTA that he likes the most about his job. When not working, he enjoys golf, working in his yard and spending time with his grandchildren.

"Louie is our most senior mechanic," says Joe Monti, Assistant General Manager of Vehicle Maintenance. "With his skills and great attitude, he keeps us going."

## Ready to Drive Your Career Forward?

RIPTA is hiring and we have **NEW INCREASED WAGES** for drivers and CDL Trainees!

Do you want career growth with an established organization where you can retire with a pension and benefits?

Attend the **RIPTA Career Fair** on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 10am to 2pm** at 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

**We're currently hiring for the following positions:**

- Planning Intern
- Mechanic - **Increased Wage!**
- Utility Worker
- Paratransit Operator
- Paratransit CDL Trainee

RIPTA Offers:

- Competitive Wages
- Pension Plan
- Health Benefits

The poster features the RIPTA logo at the top, which includes the text "RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY". Below the logo, the headline reads "Ready to Drive Your Career Forward?". A list of benefits is provided: "Variety of Career Paths", "Supportive & Growth-Oriented Culture", "Stable & Secure Employment", and "Outstanding Benefits". The background of the poster shows a smiling man in a uniform. At the bottom, there is a blue button with the text "Now Hiring".

- 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.

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## DETOURS

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://ripta.com/alerts) for detour information.

### **CINCO DE MAYO BLOCK PARTY - FRIDAY, MAY 5**

RIPTA will detour Route 40 from 8 am to 7 pm to accommodate Diego's East Side Block Party in Wayland Square.

### **AQUIDNECK ISLAND POLICE PARADE – SUNDAY, MAY 7**

RIPTA will detour Routes 60, 63 and 67 from 9am to 3pm to accommodate the annual Aquidneck Island Police Parade.

### **PROVIDENCE MARATHON – SATURDAY, MAY 6 – SUNDAY, MAY 7**

Routes 50, 55, 56, and 57 will be detoured beginning at 6:30am on Saturday, May 6 through 6pm on Sunday, May 7, 2023. Routes 1, 21, 30, 33, 34, 35, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 72, 78, 92 and the R-Line will be detoured on Sunday, May 1, 2022, from the first trip of the day until 3pm.

### **HOPE STREET SPRING BLOCK PARTY – SATURDAY, MAY 20**

Route 1 will be detoured from 7am to 7pm.

### **BROWN UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT – SUNDAY, MAY 29**

RIPTA will detour Routes 1, 33, 34, 35, 60, and 78 from 6am to Noon to accommodate Brown University's Commencement Ceremony. The East Side Tunnel, Thayer, Brook, Hope and Waterman Streets will all be closed during this time.

### **GASPEE DAYS CELEBRATION – SATURDAY, MAY 27 – MONDAY, MAY 29**

RIPTA will detour Route 4 to accommodate the Gaspee Days Celebration.

### **ANNUAL NORTH PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION & PARADE – MONDAY, MAY 29**



RIPTA will detour Route 50 to accommodate the North Providence Memorial Day Celebration & Parade.



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