



RIPTA CELEBRATES COLUMBUS DAY

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route buses and trolleys on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Monday, October 10, 2022 in observance of Columbus Day.

All RIPTA offices will be closed on the holiday.

[Click here for details](#)

TEMPORARY SERVICE REDUCTIONS DUE TO CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE

RIPTA is NOT eliminating any routes

RIPTA, like other transit agencies nationwide, is facing a critical shortage of staff necessary to maintain daily transportation service. With the ongoing shortage of bus drivers, we are forced to temporarily reduce service levels, beginning October 22, 2022. Once driver vacancies are filled, RIPTA will reinstate service levels as they are scheduled today.

Temporarily reducing service to match our current staffing levels means that riders will encounter fewer canceled trips as we will be able to run service truer to schedule.

Routes 17, 19, 21, 22, 27, 28, 31, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 63, 65X, 72, 87, and 92 will be affected. [Click here](#) to learn more about these reductions. Please note that early morning, night, weekend and holiday service has not been impacted.

RIPTA will also make changes to Routes 13, 29, 67 and 92 as part its annual fall service changes. RIPTA regularly makes service adjustments three times a

year in response to seasonal changes and/or passenger use.

[Click here](#) for more information.

RIPTA HELPS STUDENTS REACH STATE PROMISE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Several years ago, the state took a key step to removing

barriers to higher education by launching the Rhode Island Promise program, which offered free tuition to eligible students at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). The promise continues, but students face more than just financial barriers to getting an education, including transportation access to their campuses. RIPTA has been essential in breaking that barrier.

A recent report by the independent [Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation](#) in Washington, found that all CCRI campuses have a public transit stop within walking distance. RIPTA estimates that it serves nearly 400,000 community college students a year and will be expanding access to higher education with its plans to create a transit center on the community college campus in Warwick in order to give students express service to the University of Rhode Island in Kingston.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the important role that public transit plays for all community college students in this GBH news article.



EAST SIDE TUNNEL IMPROVEMENTS

RIPTA wants your feedback!

The East Side Tunnel is a critical piece of historic transit infrastructure connecting downtown Providence and Kennedy Plaza to the East Side and beyond. The tunnel was built in 1914 to aid the former trolley lines in climbing College Hill. Many of the buildings adjacent to the tunnel entrances, as well as



the locations of the bus stops and the shelter structure at the North Main Street entrance, have not changed in many years.

As RIPTA works to further expand and improve service to meet goals set in our [Transit Forward RI 2040](#) plan, our amenities

and infrastructure need the ability to support more riders and more buses.

This [East Side Tunnel project](#) is intended to create safer pedestrian travel zones, full accessibility at bus stops, and improved passenger amenities while preserving the tunnel's historic architecture.

[Click here](#) to vote on which concepts you like best. All feedback is due by October 10.

ELECTRIC BUS IN-LINE CHARGING STATION UPDATE

Earlier this summer, RIPTA broke ground on the state's first electric bus in-line charging station. This charging station will be located along the R-Line, RIPTA's most frequent and highest-ridership route, connecting Providence, Pawtucket and Cranston. The station, which can charge up to three electric buses simultaneously, will also feature driver restrooms and various site improvements including a snowmelt system.



Gas line installation

Construction is well underway at the site. [BOND Civil & Utility](#) has cleared the area of debris and vegetation in preparation for this project. Rhode Island Energy recently installed a utility pole which will provide electricity to the charging station and a gas line which will heat the building and power the boilers that will support the snowmelt radiant heating system.

During Phase 2 - which starts this month - BOND will work on additional excavation, underground utility work, building the foundation, as well as underground work supporting the snowmelt radiant heating system.

Visit [RIPTA.com/electric-bus](https://ripta.com/electric-bus) to learn more about the Authority's Zero Emissions Electric Bus Program.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Fixed-Route – Paratransit - Maintenance

As the first cases of COVID-19 were documented in the state in March 2020, RIPTA employees went to work, and they haven't stopped since. Fixed-route and paratransit drivers, dispatchers and supervisors kept service running all throughout the pandemic - making RIPTA one of the few agencies nationwide who did not cut service.



Maintenance Division

Dedicated utility staff spent endless hours taking extra care to thoroughly clean and disinfect vehicles. Our skilled maintenance team ensured that our fleet ran smoothly and was always ready for service. Through it all, our employees never gave up – even when there was no end in sight for the pandemic.

While the past two years have presented RIPTA with unprecedented challenges - from a worldwide health crisis to a critical labor shortage - one particularly bright spot has been watching our employees rise to the occasion. Our fixed-route, paratransit and maintenance divisions did not falter during these challenging times, but instead addressed them head-on.



Fixed-Route Division

COVID-19 left us with a new challenge that we're facing today – a severe driver shortage. The shortage has led to some long waits for passengers and many missed trips.

However, our employees continue to persevere. From working overtime to help keep buses running to delivering meals, cleaning facilities and moving forward with technology enhancements.



Ride Paratransit Division

So, we wanted to share a public “THANK YOU” to our fixed-route and paratransit drivers, supervisors, transportation clerks, mechanics, buildings and grounds, body shop, utility and maintenance employees who have shown an incredible commitment and unwavering support to getting Rhode Islanders where they need to go.

READY TO DRIVE YOUR CAREER FORWARD?

RIPTA is hiring!



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

Attend the **RIPTA Career Fair on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 from 12pm to 3pm** at 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Mechanic
- Utility Worker
- Drivers

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.

DETOURS

COLUMBUS DAY FESTIVAL ON FEDERAL HILL – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 – MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

RIPTA will detour Route 92 to accommodate the Columbus Day Festival. The detour will be in effect from 2pm on Friday until the last trip of the night on Monday. [Click here](#) for details.

RISD INAUGURATION – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Routes 35, 60, and Route 78 Outbound will be on detour from 9:30am to Noon to accommodate the RISD Inauguration. [Click here](#) for details.

WOONSOCKET COLUMBUS DAY PARADE – MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

RIPTA will detour Routes 54 and 87 from 9am to 11:30am to accommodate the Woonsocket Columbus Day Parade. Service to Walnut Hill will be suspended during this time. [Click here](#) for details.

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

RIPTA will detour Routes 1, 3, 4, 17, 19, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 50, 55, 56, 57, 60, 66, 78, and 92. RIPTA Bus Stops V, W and Y will be temporarily relocated during this time. [Click here](#) for details.



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