



COVID-19 RIPTA RESPONSE – WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFE RIDE

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has been working hard throughout the COVID-19 health crisis to keep our state moving in the safest manner possible. To learn about our efforts and the important role our passengers play, [click here](#).



GOOD NEWS FOR A GREENER FLEET

RIPTA recently learned from U.S. Senator Jack Reed that it will receive a \$5.076 million federal grant to support the purchase of electric buses as part of its ongoing effort to build a greener fleet. RIPTA is

currently in the process of doing research in preparation for the purchase of about 15 electric buses to replace older diesel buses in the next couple of years. The transit authority is using three leased electric buses on some of its routes to collect valuable data, on vehicle performance, energy consumption and other critical metrics.

The new federal grant is being awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No (Low-No) Emission Bus Program and is one of several funding streams that will help

RIPTA build a greener fleet. In the spring of 2018, the state announced that RIPTA would receive roughly \$10 million of the state's Volkswagen settlement for the purchase of electric vehicles. "We are fortunate to have the federal and state support that we have here in Rhode Island," Scott Avedisian, RIPTA's Chief Executive Officer, said recently.

COVID-19 TRANSIT RIDER SURVEY RESULTS

Last month, RIPTA asked passengers and the public to take a quick survey about using public transportation

during the COVID-19 pandemic. RIPTA has not curtailed any of its services throughout the current health crisis, and we are committed to continuing to provide you with safe, reliable transportation as we move forward together. Below is a summary of the feedback we received.



- More than 800 individuals from all age groups and across all parts of Rhode Island and bordering areas of Massachusetts responded to the survey.
- Many essential workers have been using RIPTA to travel to their jobs at healthcare facilities, retail stores, and manufacturing plants.
- Riders also reported that they've been using RIPTA to access grocery stores, essential jobs, and medical appointments.
- A majority of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with RIPTA's enhanced bus cleaning and sanitation.
- Most were satisfied or very satisfied with RIPTA's communications regarding COVID-19.
- More than half of the survey respondents plan on using RIPTA in the future either as much or more than they do now.
- Of those that do not plan on using public transportation in the near future, key deterrents are concerns over social distancing and the lack of a vaccine.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Agile Mile, our rideshare planning partner, is offering a scholarship program with the mission of supporting students of color studying urban planning and computer science. People of color are currently underrepresented in transportation demand management (TDM), and they hope these

scholarships will help improve diversity in our industry. Scholarships also include a one-year membership in the **Association for Commuter Transportation**. For more information on this fantastic scholarship opportunity, **[click here](#)**.



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