

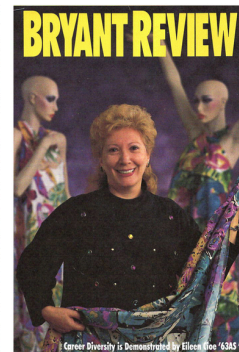


WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

We hope you enjoyed learning about the women that keep the wheels on the bus going round and round at RIPTA. [Click here](#) to read about some of the women we highlighted during Women's History Month. We have just one more, we'd like you to meet - Eileen Cioe. We saved the first, for last.

Eileen Cioe, RIPTA's First Woman General Manager and A Trailblazer in the Transit Industry (1979 - 1981)

- She rose to the top of a male-dominated industry without encountering many barriers, she says. She credits the support of others and hard work. "I worked with some very smart men who believed in me," she says. "And I always did my homework. I made sure that I knew what I was talking about."
- She describes herself as a hands-on boss, whether it was personally checking buses to make sure they were clean or showing up at accident scenes.
- Her personal style was "lady-like," she recalls. "I loved clothes, high heels and jewelry," she says. "I always



wore dresses. And I wanted to be treated like a lady.”

- She still remembers her first negotiating session with the union. The union president gave her a list of demands. She gave him coffee and pastry - and a counteroffer.
- Notable quote: “In order to advance, women must get themselves into positions where they can impact policy.”
- It’s never too late. Cioe was single for most of her career. She got married at age 49 and is now celebrating her 28th wedding anniversary.

When Eileen Cioe became General Manager of RIPTA in June 1979, she made history. Appointed by Governor J. Joseph Garrahy, she was not only the first woman to hold the top job at RIPTA, but reportedly was the first female manager of any major public transit system in the United States. “I always liked a challenge,” she said recently during a phone interview from her home Florida. “Even though I grew up in an Italian, male-dominated family, I was always given the sense that I could be whatever I wanted to be. They believed in me.”

Cioe coupled that confidence with an unflagging work ethic. Before being appointed as the head of RIPTA, she had been the mass transit coordinator at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and prior to that, the principal transit planner for the Southeastern (Massachusetts) Regional Planning and Economic Development District. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Bryant University and master’s degrees in sociology and labor economics from Memphis State University and Mississippi University. She published papers on transportation, economics and sociology, and was recognized with many awards and citations. She also found time to earn a private pilot’s license.

“I loved it,” she says of her two years at RIPTA. “It was like a family. There weren’t very many women there - but I never felt any barriers.” Cioe left RIPTA to take the helm of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and then moved on to other career opportunities in financial management. Now in her 70s, she never mentions the word retirement and is a successful, private financial advisor.

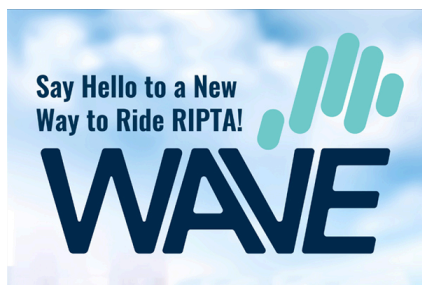
Her advice to any young women considering careers in public transportation? “I would say that no matter what you want to do, you can’t be afraid of challenges,” Cioe said. “If you are afraid, you won’t go anywhere. You have to be true to yourself, face the challenges and do your best.”



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

RIPTA wants to know how satisfied their customers are with their bus service. Passengers, whether they ride frequently or infrequently, are asked to take the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, available online from Monday, April 12, 2021 through Sunday May 9, 2021. Each participant will be eligible for the chance to win a RIPTA prize pack which will include \$50 of bus fare value on a Wave account if he/she chooses to provide their contact information.

The survey will not become active until the morning of Monday, April 12.
Click [here](#) to take the survey.



CESSATION OF ON BOARD FARE SALES

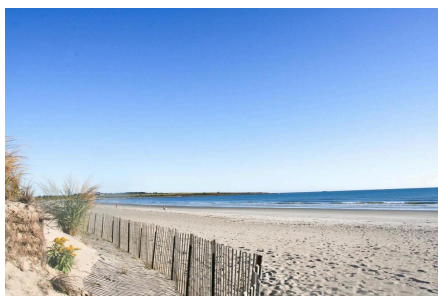
Starting today, April 1, 2021, RIPTA will no longer sell fare products on board as part of our ongoing transition to Wave. Riders can continue to pay their fare with paper fare products until later this fall. Cash will always be accepted on board.

We recommend making the switch to Wave TODAY and start enjoying all the benefits it offers! Physical smart card OR mobile app – the choice is yours. Visit [RIPTA.com/wave](https://ripta.com/wave) for details.

CONNECTING MBTA PASSENGERS TO RIPTA

Although the MBTA has suspended commuter rail service to the South Attleboro train station until further notice, passengers traveling to the Boston area can still make a bus-rail connection by using the Providence Train Station. Passengers who previously used Routes 1 and 35 to travel to the South Attleboro station can instead take those routes southbound to Kennedy Plaza. From there, they can either transfer to another route to travel to the train station or walk from Kennedy Plaza.

RIPTA offers bus service from Kennedy Plaza to the train station every five minutes from Stop G. The routes providing this service are Routes 3, 4, 51, 54, 58, 62 and 72 traveling northbound from the Plaza. For commuter rail trip times from Providence, please check MBTA schedule [here](#).



Sachuest Beach (Second Beach)

BEACH SHUTTLE PILOT PROGRAM

RIPTA is launching a beach shuttle pilot program on weekends and holidays starting June 19 through August 27, 2021 in the Newport and Middletown area. RIPTA will be holding a public hearing on this on Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 7pm to 8pm.

[Click here](#) for details.

RIPTA PROVIDES A CONNECTION TO MANY VACCINATION SITES



Did you know that many vaccination sites in the State are accessible via public transportation? RIPTA has put together the following information to assist people who may want to take the bus to their vaccination appointment. For the most detailed directions, passengers should enter their travel information in the easy-to-use trip planner available on our [home page](#) to see which routes work best for them. Our website also provides detailed route schedules and maps. Please

note that to reach some of these locations via bus, you will need to walk from the nearest bus stop to your destination.

Also, please remember that you must first make an appointment for your vaccine, and follow all applicable rules and instructions provided with your appointment confirmation. People who are sick should not be leaving home and face coverings are required on the bus. [This site](#), has answers to questions about the vaccination process, and people can [click here](#) to book an appointment. Below is a sampling of vaccination sites and the RIPTA routes they are served by. New locations are sometimes added by the State and there are private options available through participating pharmacies. [Click here](#) for more information on public and private locations.

PROVIDENCE (Dunkin Donuts Center)

1 LaSalle Square

This site is about a 6-minute walk from Kennedy Plaza. All RIPTA Routes operating to and from downtown Providence provide service to Kennedy Plaza. For a direct connection to the site, passengers can take Route 27 or Route 28 OUTBOUND from Kennedy Plaza. They may also take Route 92 WESTBOUND from the Plaza.

CRANSTON

100 Sockanosset Cross Road

This site is serviced by Route 21 and Route 22 from Providence.

MIDDLETOWN

1400 West Main Road

This site is serviced by Routes 63 and 60 and is accessible from both the Providence and Newport areas.

WOONSOCKET

1500 Diamond Hill Road (former Sears building located in the Walnut Hill Plaza)

This site is serviced by Route 87 from the downtown Woonsocket area, and by Route 54 connecting to Route 87 from the greater Providence area.

WEST KINGSTON (Schneider Electric)

132 Fairgrounds Road

This site is serviced by Routes 62 and 66 from the greater Providence area.



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