



## EXCHANGE YOUR PAPER FARE PRODUCTS TODAY!

Do you have any RIPTA paper fare products lying around? Trade them in!

As part of our transition to Wave, RIPTA's new smart fare technology, we will no longer accept paper fare products on board later this year.

If you have unused fare products, not to worry! You can transfer the value

over to your new Wave card by **filling out this form** and then mailing your unused fare products to RIPTA.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Wave.

## FREE PILOT SERVICE TO QUONSET BUSINESS PARK CONTINUES

Recognizing the importance of maintaining transportation connections

to key job locations, RIPTA recently announced that it will continue its pilot commuter service from the greater Providence area to the Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown. RIPTA renewed its partnership with the Quonset Development Corporation, enabling it to continue free morning and afternoon trips on the Quonset Express (QX) route. [Click here](#) to view the full QX schedule. The 3,000-plus acre business park is a key employment site in the state with more than 200 businesses.



“Quonset Business Park is a vital component to Rhode Island’s economy as well as the economy here in North Kingstown” said North Kingstown Town Manager A. Ralph Mollis. “They provide jobs to our communities, including North Kingstown, and the commuter services being proposed by RIPTA is a critical service to the thousands of employees within Quonset Business Park. My thanks to RIPTA for their vision and leadership in this program.”



PHOTO BY ANTHONY CHRISAFULLI

## INTERESTED IN PAYING ONLY \$2.50 PER DAY FOR PARKING DOWNTOWN?

Consider HOV parking at Providence Place Mall! What is HOV? It’s an acronym for High Occupancy Vehicle(s). HOV generally describes any vehicle carrying two or more persons on a single journey such as

carpools and vanpools.

Carpools and vanpools registered in RIPTA’s Commuter Resource RI (CCRI) HOV Parking Program are eligible for a discounted parking rate at Providence Place Mall.

Receive free assistance in forming a carpool or vanpool convenient to your home and office! It just takes as few as two to be a carpool. We’ll even help you find pool-mates! Call 401-784-9575 today or email [commuter@ripta.com](mailto:commuter@ripta.com).

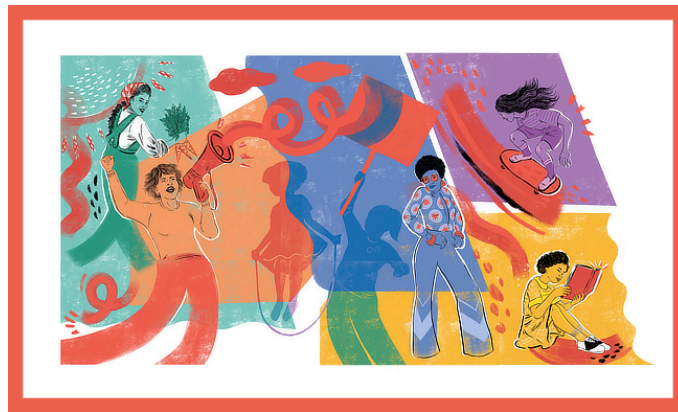
CCRI is the official registry for the HOV carpooling spaces at Providence Place. The HOV Parking Program, which launched in 2002, is available to registered carpools Monday through Friday 6am to 6pm.

## WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH AT RIPTA

March is Women’s History Month, a federally designated month intended to commemorate and celebrate the achievements and contributions that women have made in all facets of life. It is marked across the country with a variety of activities that range from exhibits at local libraries to special programs at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress. This year, tech giant Apple

is marking the month by highlighting special content on its, books, music, and other platforms.

RIPTA is proud to mark Women’s History Month 2021 with a series of features highlighting some of the bright, dynamic, and dedicated women who help keep the transit authority running smoothly. They include executives, supervisors, drivers, and utility workers – and we are proud of them all. We start the series today in our newsletter and will continue throughout the month with stories on our social media. We hope you enjoy meeting these valued members of our team.



Graphic Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution. To read more about Women’s History Month, visit <https://womenshistorymonth.gov>.



**KRISSY  
KLEAMOVICH**  
**Superintendent of  
Paratransit Operations**

Krissy Kleamovich is Superintendent of Operations for RIPTA’s paratransit division, RIdE. The job entails overseeing almost every aspect of the day-to-day workings of our division that provides

transportation to passengers who are not able to use regular, fixed-route bus service. Typically (before the pandemic), RIdE operates more than 1,000 trips a day. A RIPTA employee for 18 years, Krissy worked her way up in RIdE, and now reports directly to the division’s executive director. She combines a no-nonsense management style with a commitment to making sure that work is a collegial place where RIdE drivers feel supported and encouraged. She loves morale-boosting initiatives -- whether it is an office garden club that helps beautify RIPTA grounds, or a special recognition program for drivers with exemplary safety records. She says that the RIdE division is her home at RIPTA because she loves to help people and in paratransit, you get to see how much mobility can enhance people’s lives.

“You have to have compassion in this job,” she says. “It is emotionally fulfilling.” It’s clear that Kleamovich’s compassion and leadership are appreciated by employees. Her office is filled with cards, posters, stuffed animals, and other tokens of appreciation, almost all of which are in her trademark color – pink. “It’s my favorite color,” says Kleamovich who once wanted to be a hair stylist before she earned a commercial driver’s license and became a school bus driver years ago. She also worked as an administrator for a private bus company before joining RIPTA. “I’m a girly-girl,” she says with a laugh, adding that public transportation has turned out to be the perfect career fit for her. The small (pink, of course) placard on her desk says it all: “This Girl Can.”

## SAFETY COLORS

Passengers who use our RIde paratransit program may have noticed some drivers sporting different shirts over the past couple of years. If they see a driver wearing a deep yellow, purple or blue shirt, they should

know that these are shirts to be worn with pride. They are “safe driver shirts” given once a year to paratransit drivers who have had exemplary driving records. Given the number of miles a RIde driver logs every day, it not necessarily an easy feat. Drivers average about 200 miles a day and the reservation-based RIde service can mean they have to traverse the entire state more than once in a single shift. They also operate in all kinds of weather since some customers rely on RIde to get them to critical medical destinations such as dialysis.

“Snow, rain, sleet – we’re out there,” Ellen Ford, a RIde operator for 20 years, said recently. “And we also have to deal with all kind of traffic conditions.” She said that the RIde operators appreciate the safety shirt award program, and the fact that the RIde supervisory team recognizes the drivers’ hard work. “It makes us feel good,” she said. “It is a real morale boost.”



*RIde driver Ellen Ford wearing the purple safe driver shirt she was awarded for having an exemplary driver record. The colors change every year as drivers are recognized for their excellence.*



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