



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room**

The meeting can be watched online here:

[RIPTA Board of Directors - February 27, 2025](#)

AGENDA

1. Board Approval To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 23, 2025.
2. Board Approval To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 23, 2025.
3. Board Approval To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 19, 2024.
4. Public Comment /
Board Discussion Limited to 3 minutes per person.
5. CEO Report
 - CEO Update
 - Key Initiatives
 - Employee Spotlight
 - Budget
 - Ridership
 - On Time Performance

By a majority vote, a public body may amend its agenda to add items. The additional items shall be for informational purposes only and may not be voted on except when necessary to address an unexpected occurrence requiring immediate action or to refer the matter to an appropriate committee pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-6(b).

Copies of Meeting Minutes may be obtained pursuant to RIPTA's public records policy, which is available at <https://www.ripta.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/APRA-External-Policy-and-Procedure.pdf>. An interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing can be provided by calling 784-9500 x1171 at least 48 hours in advance. The location is accessible to the handicapped.



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

6. Board Discussion / Potential Vote Award of Contract - Procurement of Fluids and Oils.
7. Board Discussion / Potential Vote Board Questions and Answers
8. Executive Session Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5: (a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting); (a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation; (a)(5) Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public; and (a) (7) A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest. Public funds shall include any investment plan or matter related thereto, including, but not limited to, state lottery plans for new promotions.
9. Board Discussion / Potential Vote Executive employment agreement of Christopher Durand.
10. Adjournment

This Agenda has been posted on February 21, 2025

By a majority vote, a public body may amend its agenda to add items. The additional items shall be for informational purposes only and may not be voted on except when necessary to address an unexpected occurrence requiring immediate action or to refer the matter to an appropriate committee pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-6(b).

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2025
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; James Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit; and James Lombardi.

Absent Members: Board Vice Chair, Robert Kells; Vincent Massino; Heather Schey; and Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Jacqueline Weidinger, Administrative Assistant-Executive Office; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

Call to Order: Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 19, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024, meeting. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Leach, Mr. Lombardi and Director Alviti.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 19, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to hold this item until the February 27, 2025, meeting. Mr. Leach seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Benoit and Director Alviti.

Agenda Item 3: **Public Comment**

1. Daria Phoebe Brasher
 - States she is concerned about the lack of funding for RIPTA in the Governor's Budget.
 - States will support us in any necessary funding.

2. Patricia Raub – R.I. Transit Riders

- She is concerned about the Budget shortfall.
- States will support us with any funding.
- Invites RIPTA to Transit Equity Day on February 3, 2025, from 1:00PM to 2:00PM at Kennedy Plaza / Access To Opportunity.

Agenda Item 4: **CEO Report**

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's CEO, provides updates regarding service, budget {including financial comparisons}, ridership, on time performance, and bus stop improvements.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 5: **Request for Approval – Board Resolution Regarding Federal Transit Administration Awards of Financial Assistance**

Christopher Durand, CEO; and Nathan Watchous, Deputy Chief of Finance and Budget make the request.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 6: **Request for Approval – RIPTA Service Guidelines**

Christopher Durand, CEO; and Sarah Ingle, Deputy Chief of Planning make the request.

Mr. Leach makes a motion to approve the request. Mr. Benoit seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Crowley.

Agenda Item 7: **Board Questions and Answers**

Mr. Benoit inquires about the Efficiency Study deadline for March 2025. Chris Durand, CEO advises that RIPTA will not make deadline, and it should be completed by May of 2025. Director Alviti states the board will be supportive of this.

No votes were taken.

Agenda Item 8: **Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting), R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to**

collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), the person(s) who are to be discussed were informed prior to the meeting, and did not request the matter(s) be discussed in open session.

Mr. Lombardi motions to enter executive session. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach and Mr. Benoit.

The Board enters into Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting), R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5), Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

The Board and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:05pm.

The Board and Counsel enter public session at 2:47pm.

Attorney Fragomeni reports that only two votes were taken during Executive Session: 1. A vote which was sealed and 2. To adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Leach.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment - 2:49pm

Mr. Leach makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Benoit and Mr. Crowley.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary



CEO UPDATE



Winter Service Changes Effective January 18, 2025

RIPTA makes regular service adjustments three times a year in response to seasonal changes and/or passenger use. The winter service changes included an increase in service frequency on some high-performing routes, new service to a major employment center, and the elimination of a low-performing route segment. RIPTA staff were out in Kennedy Plaza and the Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center notifying passengers of the changes and handing out new schedules.

Providence Public Schools: Afternoon Service Improvements

As of January 21, select afternoon school trips leaving Hope High School, Mount Pleasant High School, Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School, and E-Cubed Academy now travel directly to neighborhood RIPTA routes without having to transfer in Kennedy Plaza. Transit ambassadors were available at the schools to help students board and answer questions.

Expanded Hours for Customer Service Call Center

Effective January 21, the RIPTA Customer Service Call Center is now open at 6 AM on weekdays (instead of 8:30 AM) to better serve our passengers. This expansion is part of RIPTA's commitment to enhancing the passenger experience, ensuring riders have access to information and assistance when they need it most. Passengers can contact the Customer Service Call Center at 401-784-9500 x2012.

Future Goals: Rhode Island FC

CEO Chris Durand toured Tidewater Landing with Rhode Island FC President David Peart to discuss how RIPTA can transport fans to the new soccer stadium.

2025 Community Site Visits for Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Every month, RIPTA's Customer Service staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process Photo ID bus passes for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities with valid documentation. These statewide Photo ID Community Site Visits allow residents in both rural and urban areas to access transit information and apply for the Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program without having to travel to RIPTA offices in Providence. RIPTA staff traveled to the Leon Mathieu Center in Pawtucket and the William Donovan Manor in Newport. RIPTA processed 33 bus passes.

KEY INITIATIVES

Workforce Development

- 4 van operators hired
- 3 new street supervisors
- 2 new Local 808 administrative employees



Service Improvements

- Updating hiring and training plan for spring and summer 2025
- Evaluating service improvements for fall 2025



Amenity Improvements

- First shelter rehabilitated
- Working on new real-time signs for Kennedy Plaza stops



Performance Data and Benchmarking

- Required efficiency study procurement underway
- Analyzing route performance to improve on-time performance



Nicky Mudryy

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



While the path of an artist is often marked by struggles and uncertainty, Nicky Mudryy's journey to RIPTA proves that creativity and resilience can pave the way to unexpected success. As a Marketing and Communications Specialist, Nicky has channeled these qualities into every aspect of his role, bringing fresh energy, resourcefulness, and a passion for storytelling to RIPTA since 2023.

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Nicky spent much of his childhood in Northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Reflecting on his early experiences, Nicky said, "I first discovered creating videos and art during my childhood and it plays a big role in what I'm doing here at RIPTA."

After earning a degree in Film and Video and refining his craft in production, Nicky had several creative projects to show for his efforts, which would lead to his eventual move to Rhode Island. "I stumbled upon the Marketing and Communications Specialist role at RIPTA while job searching during a really difficult time in my life. When I got the call offering me the job, it was better than winning the lottery."

Nicky's exceptional video production skills have played a crucial role in transforming the way RIPTA communicates, both internally and externally. His creative vision and technical expertise have enhanced the quality of the agency's messaging and have significantly elevated the RIPTA brand. From Bike to Work Month promos to documenting press events to creating training videos, his work consistently goes above and beyond to engage, inform, and inspire.

Nicky's creativity shines in larger projects, too. "One of my favorite projects was creating a documentary about the East Side Tunnel. It's a 16-minute historical piece with interviews and footage of the 110-year-old tunnel's renovation project."

Outside of work, Nicky keeps his creativity flowing with personal projects in animation, beat-making, and web design. "I've always been fascinated by art in all its forms. I try out different things, like learning Blender for animation or building a website from scratch."

Nicky's dedication to his craft and his ability to connect with RIPTA's mission make him an invaluable member of the team. His creativity, resourcefulness, and passion for storytelling are sure to leave a lasting impact.

Marketing & Communications Specialist

This report reflects the FY 2025 Revised Budget as approved by the Board of Directors in December 2024.

Budget to Actual - January 2025

| Budget-Actual FY 2025 | Monthly Current Year | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Budget | Actual | VAR \$ | VAR % |
| Federal Subsidies | \$3,292,469 | \$2,053,483 | (\$1,238,987) | -37.6% |
| Federal Subsidies-CARES Act | \$2,229,796 | \$11,148,980 | \$8,919,184 | 400.0% |
| State Subsidies | \$3,839,807 | \$4,309,657 | \$469,850 | 12.2% |
| Other Revenue | \$837,835 | \$442,828 | (\$395,007) | -47.1% |
| Passenger Fares | \$985,933 | \$900,515 | (\$85,418) | -8.7% |
| Third Party Fares | \$1,245,299 | \$899,464 | (\$345,836) | -27.8% |
| Special Project Revenue | \$244,542 | \$0 | (\$244,542) | -100.0% |
| Total Revenue | \$12,675,681 | \$19,754,926 | \$7,079,245 | 55.8% |
| | Budget | Actual | VAR \$ | VAR % |
| Salaries & Fringe Benefits | \$10,466,799 | \$10,398,117 | \$68,682 | 0.7% |
| Contract Services | \$1,125,962 | \$1,289,072 | (\$163,110) | -14.5% |
| Operating Expense | \$2,262,638 | \$1,750,063 | \$512,575 | 22.7% |
| Utilities | \$272,614 | \$379,341 | (\$106,728) | -39.1% |
| Capital Match & Repayment | \$43,947 | \$0 | \$43,947 | 100.0% |
| Debt Service | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | 0.0% |
| Special Projects | \$119,542 | \$0 | \$119,542 | 100.0% |
| Total Expenses | \$14,291,500 | \$13,816,593 | \$474,908 | 3.3% |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$1,615,819) | \$5,938,334 | \$7,554,153 | |

- We completed our first relief funding draw down in February. Shortly thereafter, we completed an additional draw down of relief funding in response to a Federal OMB memo regarding the potential freeze of federal funding.

- Operating expenses are under budget due to lower-than-expected fuel costs and fewer engine replacements.

This report reflects the FY 2025 Revised Budget as approved by the Board of Directors in December 2024.

Budget to Actual through January 31, 2025

| Budget-Actual FY 2025 | Year To Date Current Year | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | Budget | Actual | VAR \$ | VAR % |
| Federal Subsidies | \$23,047,284 | \$16,787,851 | (\$6,259,433) | -27.2% |
| Federal Subsidies-CARES Act | \$2,229,796 | \$11,148,980 | \$8,919,184 | 400.0% |
| State Subsidies | \$39,278,728 | \$40,264,914 | \$986,187 | 2.5% |
| Other Revenue | \$5,865,782 | \$3,624,189 | (\$2,241,593) | -38.2% |
| Passenger Fares | \$6,570,553 | \$6,663,346 | \$92,793 | 1.4% |
| Third Party Fares | \$7,106,368 | \$5,728,869 | (\$1,377,499) | -19.4% |
| Special Project Revenue | \$1,711,792 | \$0 | (\$1,711,792) | -100.0% |
| Total Revenue | \$85,810,301 | \$84,218,149 | (\$1,592,153) | -1.9% |
| | Budget | Actual | VAR \$ | VAR % |
| Salaries & Fringe Benefits | \$64,916,803 | \$63,158,294 | \$1,758,509 | 2.7% |
| Contract Services | \$7,881,677 | \$4,770,280 | \$3,111,397 | 39.5% |
| Operating Expense | \$15,653,495 | \$9,209,937 | \$6,443,558 | 41.2% |
| Utilities | \$1,077,244 | \$1,292,352 | (\$215,108) | -20.0% |
| Capital Match & Repayment | \$307,629 | \$0 | \$307,629 | 100.0% |
| Debt Service | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | 0.0% |
| Special Projects | \$836,792 | \$0 | \$836,792 | 100.0% |
| Total Expenses | \$90,673,640 | \$78,430,863 | \$12,242,776 | 13.5% |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$4,863,338) | \$5,787,285 | \$10,650,624 | |

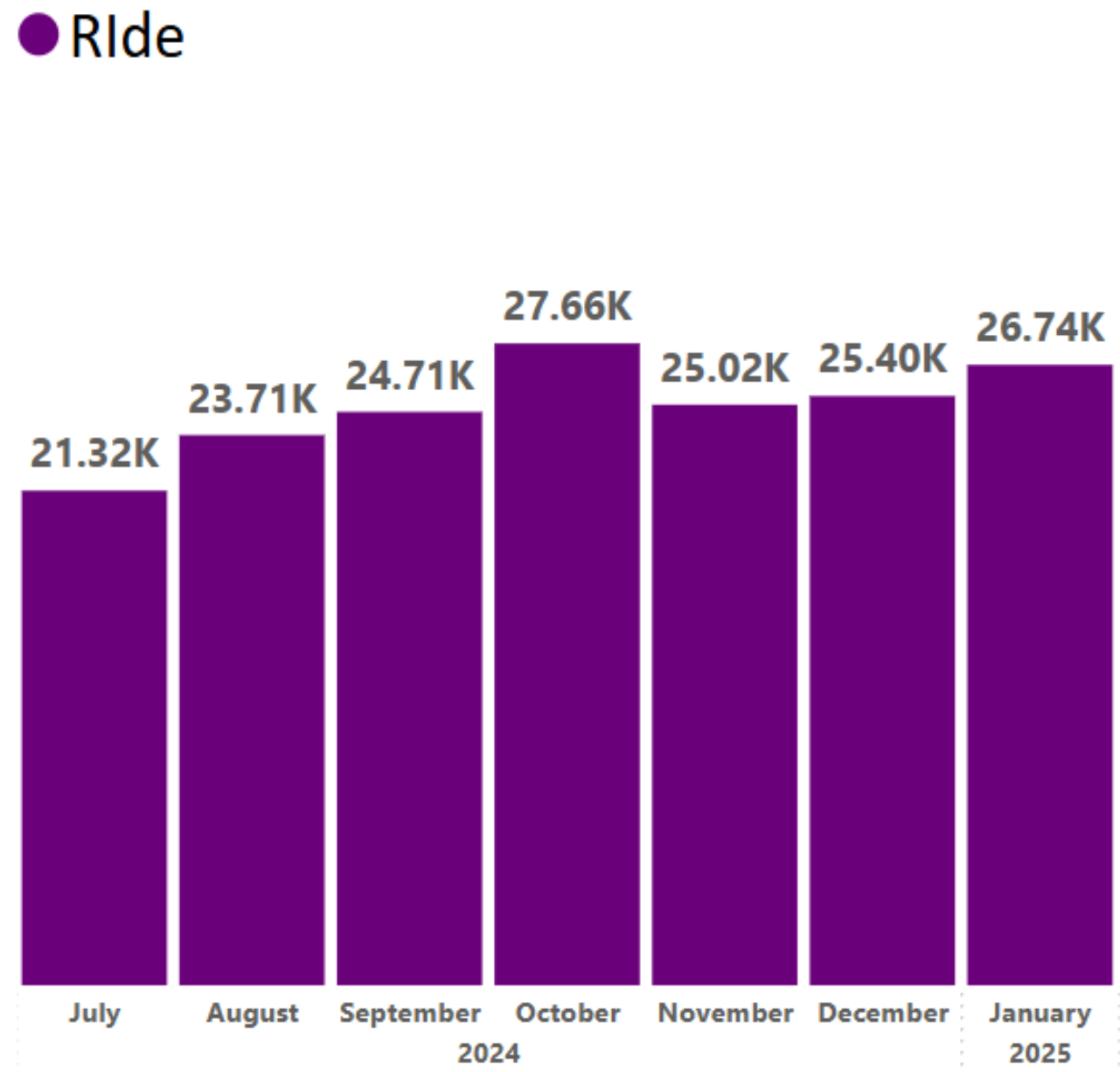
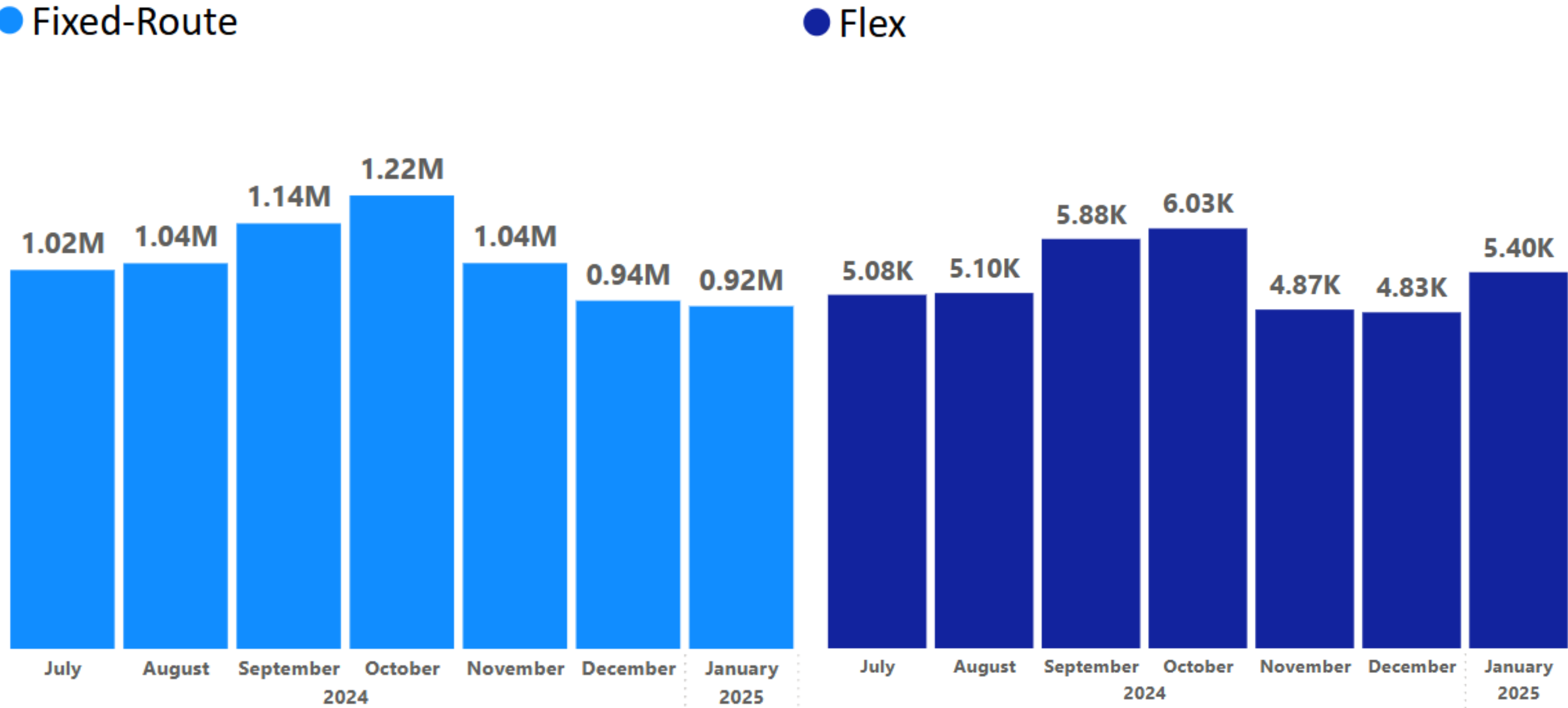
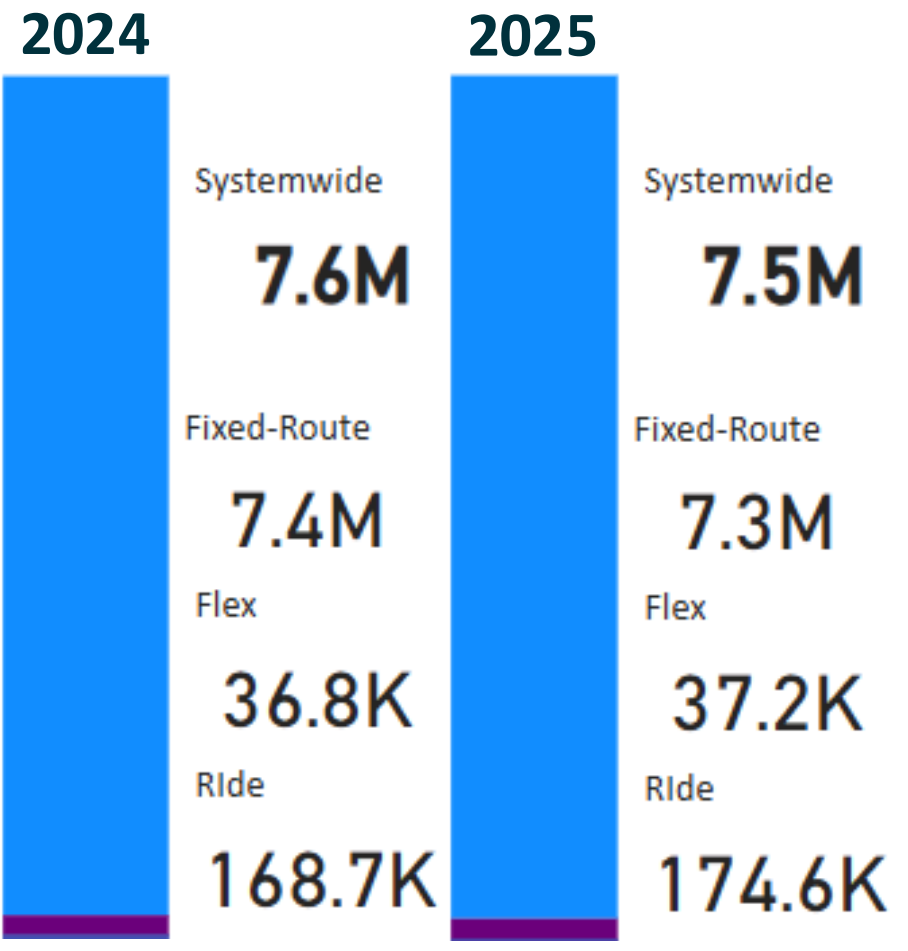
- Federal subsidies are under budget through January due to timing of operating reimbursements.
- State subsidies include a one-time infusion of funding for the FY25 deficit.
- Contract services are lower than expected through January due to timing of some larger projects.
- Operating expenses are under budget due to lower fuel, maintenance, and engine replacement costs.

MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

Systemwide Ridership: January 2025



SYSTEMWIDE YEAR-TO-DATE



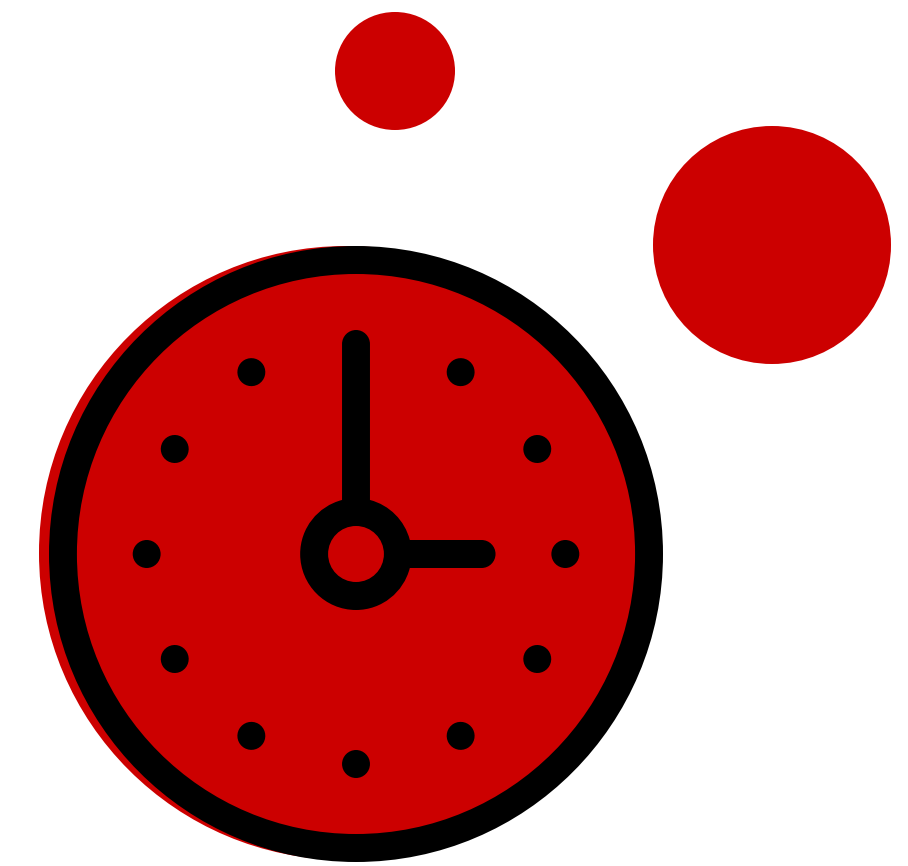
RIDERSHIP DECREASED 1% YEAR-TO-DATE FROM 2024

Fixed-Route ridership counts come from the Automatic Passenger Counts (APCs) from UTA.
 Flex and Ride Paratransit ridership counts come from Reveal tablets for Ride, and 3rd party reports for Taxi trips, Flex On Demand ridership (included with Flex) comes from Spare

ON TIME PERFORMANCE (OTP): FIXED-ROUTE

| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| JANUARY | 79.1% | 77.3% | 82.4% | 82.2% |
| DECEMBER | | 76.4% | 76.9% | 80.2% |
| NOVEMBER | | 74.0% | 77.9% | 79.2% |
| OCTOBER | | 73.7% | 77.3% | 78.3% |
| SEPTEMBER | | 72.7% | 77.0% | 78.1% |
| AUGUST | | 76.7% | 79.3% | 81.3% |
| JULY | | 78.0% | 79.5% | 81.0% |
| MAY | | 73.4% | 78.6% | 81.1% |
| APRIL | | 76.5% | 81.3% | 81.7% |
| MARCH | | 78.3% | 82.4% | 82.2% |
| FEBRUARY | | 78.3% | 82.2% | 81.3% |

OTP INCREASED BY 1.8% IN JANUARY 2025 FROM JANUARY 2024



On Time Performance

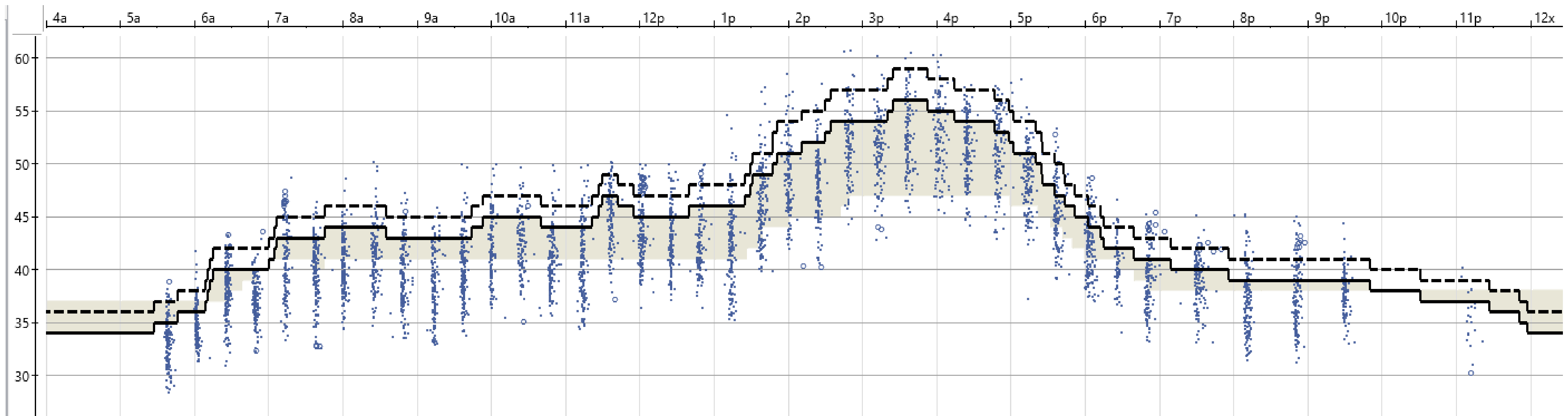
On Time Performance (OTP) is based on Departure Time. On Time is between 1 minute early and 5 minutes late.

ABBG AVERAGE: 79%

On-Time Performance Analysis

Route 72 (Weeden/ Central Falls)

RI Hospital District to Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center



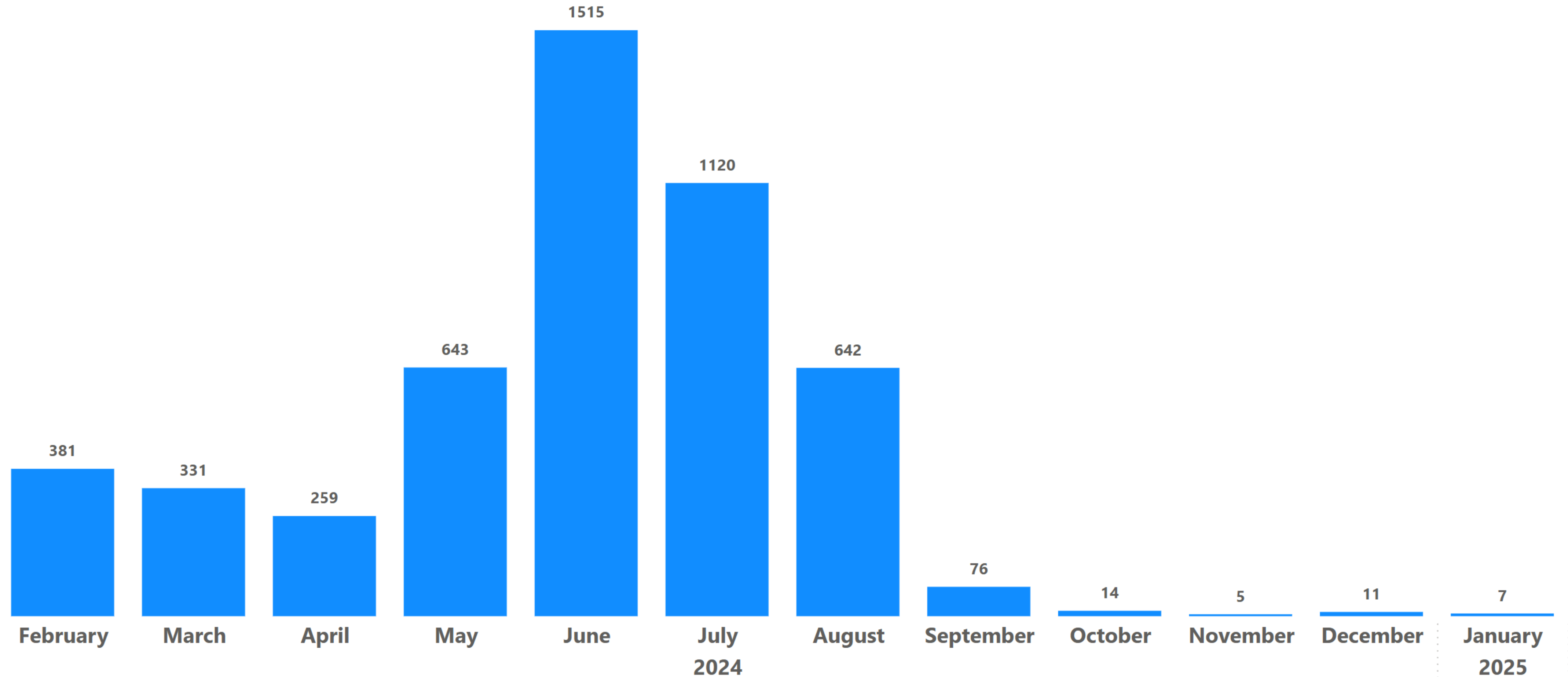
Solid black line represents current run times for the route throughout the day.

Dotted line represents a projected increase in run times throughout the day.

LOST SERVICE

January 2025

Cancelled/Uncovered Trips by Year and Month



* Counts based on regular trips

** Cancelled does not include Standby or School Cancelled trips

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY STAFF SUMMARY FORM

TO: **DATE:**
PREPARED BY: **DEPARTMENT:**

TITLE :

RIPTA Board of Directors is requested to award a contract to Dennison Lubricants to supply and deliver various vehicle fluids to the Authority. Vehicle fluids include, but are not limited to: motor oils, lubricants, transmission fluids, hydraulic oils and coolants, to be used in RIPTA's fleets (including the electric buses). Based on historical fluid consumption, the average cost is \$423,406.45 per year during the 5-year period of the awarded contract. This is an initial one-year term, with up to four annual renewal options, to be exercised at the sole discretion of the Authority.

BACKGROUND

An Invitation for Bids (IFB #25-05) was issued January 13, 2025. It was publicly advertised on the RI State Purchasing Website. Invitation for Bids were directly sent to five vendors. Bids were received February 13, 2025. Two companies submitted responsive bids: BWE, LLC of Manchester, NH; and Dennison Lubricants of Lakeview, MA. Dennison submitted the lowest responsive, responsible bid.

JUSTIFICATION

The products specified in this bid are essential to keeping RIPTA's fleets in proper operating order.

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY STAFF SUMMARY FORM

TO:

DATE:

PREPARED BY:

DEPARTMENT:

FUNDING

This contract is funded by RIPTA Operating and Preventative Maintenance Funds which are included in this year's budget.




ALTERNATIVES

RIPTA could rebid the contract but would most likely result in the same outcome or the vendors may decide to not bother to rebid at all.

RECOMMENDATION

Award a contract to Dennison Lubricants to supply and deliver various vehicle fluids to the Authority.

APPROVALS (shaded Departments must approve all Staff Summaries). Projects between \$5,000 and \$10,000 must have Department Director/AGM. Projects between \$10,000 and \$100,000 must have CEO also. Projects greater than \$100,000 must also have Board of Directors Approval

| Department | Initial | Date | Department | Initial | Date |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Budget/Finance | <u>NW</u> | <input type="text" value="02/19/25"/> | Maintenance/Facility |  | <input type="text"/> |
| Customer Service | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Marketing | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Environmental/Safety | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Planning | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Project Management | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Procurement |  | <input type="text" value="02/20/2025"/> |
| Flex/Paratransit | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Security | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Human Resources | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Training | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Inform. Services | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Transportation | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Legal/Risk Mgmt | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Chief Exec. Officer |  | <input type="text"/> |