



A woman stands and speaks while holding papers in a public meeting room, addressing a seated audience.

Public Hearings Scheduled for Proposed Statewide Service Cuts and Fare Increase

Starting on July 28 and continuing through August 6, 2025, RIPTA will hold public hearings in all five Rhode Island counties on proposed service reductions and a fare increase.

These proposed changes are part of the cost controls RIPTA is imposing to manage its budget deficit. Later this month, RIPTA will announce specific plans as the agency finalizes the necessary reductions for the fall service plan. Riders should anticipate the following changes: elimination of routes or route segments, decreased service frequency, reduced service span, and reduced or eliminated weekend service.

"RIPTA's primary source of operating funds, the state gas tax, has failed to keep pace with inflation, making it inadequate to sustain a quality transit system and contributing to the agency's budget deficit," said **RIPTA Chief Executive Officer Christopher Durand**. "We've worked diligently to manage our operations with limited resources, and an independent efficiency study

has confirmed what we already knew: there are no hidden savings left to be found. At this point, in order to close the budget gap, we must reluctantly consider reducing service, increasing fares and laying off our workforce. Without new revenue, we simply have no other choice.”

RIPTA’s recent efficiency study, which was requested by Governor McKee and the General Assembly as a condition in last year’s state budget, concluded that “no short-term cost reduction strategy would generate significant savings to avoid near-term service reductions.”

Information on the proposed service reductions and fare increase will be available at [RIPTA.com/PublicHearings](https://www.ripta.com/PublicHearings).

Schedule for Public Hearings

- **Monday, July 28 | 12:00PM – 1:30PM** : CCRI Knight Campus, 400 East Ave., Warwick
- **Monday, July 28 | 5:00PM – 6:30PM**: Woonsocket Public Library, 303 Clinton St., Woonsocket
- **Tuesday, July 29 | 12:00PM – 1:30PM and 5:00PM – 6:30PM**: Newport CCRI Auditorium, One John H. Chafee Blvd., Newport
- **Wednesday, July 30 | 12:00PM – 1:30PM** : South Kingstown Town Hall, 180 High St., Wakefield
- **Wednesday, July 30 | 5:00PM – 6:30PM** : West Warwick Public Library, 1043 Main St., West Warwick
- **Wednesday, July 30 | 5:00PM – 6:30PM** : Kingston Free Library, 2605 Kingstown Rd., Kingston
- **Thursday, July 31 | 5:00PM – 6:30PM**: Pawtucket Public Library, 13 Summer St., Pawtucket
- **Monday, August 4 | 12:00PM – 1:30PM and 5:00PM – 6:30PM**: The Providence Foundation, 30 Exchange Terrace, Providence
- **Wednesday, August 6 | 12:00PM – 1:30PM and 5:00PM – 6:30PM**: Barrington Public Library, 281 County Rd., Barrington

These hearings will be accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. RIPTA will provide translation and interpreter services for the deaf and hearing impaired, provided such a request is made at least 72 hours prior to the hearing date. A request for this service can be made by calling (401) 784-9500 ex.1203 or 800-745-5555 (RI Relay TDD).



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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC NOTICE

Draft State Transportation Improvement Program FFY 2026 -2035

Help Shape Rhode Island's Future Transportation Projects

The State of Rhode Island is accepting public comments on the proposed **2026–2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**, a list of transportation projects the state plans to implement using U.S. Department of Transportation funds, along with other funding sources.

Updated every four years, the STIP outlines both short-term, fiscally constrained projects (2026–2029) and longer-range priorities (2030–2035). Projects include roadways, bridges, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and public transit such as RIPTA's transit services, facilities, and vehicle upgrades.

Get Involved:

- [View the plan here](#) and [comment online here](#)
- **Attend a public hearing:** *Thursday, July 10 at 5PM – North Kingstown Free Library*
or Wednesday, July 16 at 5PM – Doorley Building, Providence
- **Join a Zoom listening session:** Wednesday, July 9 at [12PM](#) & [5:30PM](#)

Public comment period closes July 30, 2025 at 4:00PM.




Cartoon-style graphic promoting a "Transit Oriented Beach Day!" on Saturday, July 19. The image features summer-themed illustrations including a beach umbrella, sunglasses, a starfish, a seashell, waves, and a small bus.

Providence Streets Coalition's Third Annual Beach Day

It's time for another day at the beach as the [Providence Streets Coalition](#) hops aboard RIPTA's hottest summer service - the Express Beach Bus - for its third annual Transit Oriented Beach Day!

Interested in joining fellow sunseekers and connecting with a community of bus and beach loving friends? Meet at Kennedy Plaza Bus Stop X (Exchange Terrace) for the 9:30AM departure on

Saturday, July 19. The bus returns to Kennedy Plaza at 4:19PM. No RSVP needed for this event. Email any questions to info@ourstreetspvd.org.

 **RIPTA's South County Beach Express** offers direct service to Scarborough, Wheeler and Salty Brine beaches from Woonsocket, Cranston, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Downtown Providence and North Providence. Service runs weekends and holidays now through Saturday, August 24, 2025.



Young woman holds Wave smart card.

Help Keep Students Moving This Summer!

RIPTA has launched a pilot [Summer Youth Pass Program](#) aimed at keeping high school students connected to essential resources and opportunities this summer. Organizations accepted into the pilot will have access to certain RIPTA fare products at a 50% discount. This initiative is fully funded by a grant and does not draw from RIPTA's operating budget.

Eligible organizations include Rhode Island high schools, youth programs and local nonprofits serving high school-aged students. Interested organizations should email pilot@ripta.com for a pilot program application or call (401) 784-9500 x1283.

RIPTA Adds Bus Stops to Serve New CODAC Behavioral Healthcare Center

RIPTA added two new bus stops on Route 72 to serve the new community health center in Providence where they offer medical care, addiction treatment, mental health services, and workforce development resources. To help patients get to the new facility, RIPTA added two bus stops on Silver Spring Street. Adding a bus stop near a recovery center helps eliminate a major transportation barrier to treatment, improving access to supportive services and promoting better health outcomes statewide.



Maria Ducharme, DNP, RN, president, The Miriam Hospital and chief quality executive, Brown University Health shakes hands with Chris Durand, RIPTA chief executive officer.

The Miriam Hospital Becomes First Healthcare Facility to Join RIPTA's Wave to Work Commuter Benefits Program

The Miriam Hospital is the first healthcare facility in Rhode Island to join RIPTA's [Wave to Work](#) commuter benefits program. As part of a new pilot, the hospital will fully subsidize monthly bus passes for more than 200 employees in its Support Services Department, including Environmental Services, Facilities, Transport, Laundry, and Distribution.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this exciting new partnership.



Community Outreach Officer Jim Vincent standing at a podium.

Our Own Rhode Island Icon!

RIPTA Community Outreach Officer Jim Vincent was inducted into the [Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame](#) alongside other notable Rhode Islanders including former Miss Universe Olivia Culpo.

The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have “made significant contributions to their community, state, and/or nation.”

Jim, former president of the NAACP Providence Branch, has been a tireless advocate for racial justice and equity in Rhode Island. He worked passionately to address systemic racism, improve police-community relations, and champion policies that uplift marginalized communities. Under his leadership, the Providence NAACP tackled critical issues such as voting rights, education reform, and economic disparities, while fostering dialogue and collaboration across diverse groups. His unwavering commitment to social justice and his ability to bring people together have made him a respected and influential voice in the ongoing fight for equality and inclusion.

Jim continues this important work at RIPTA, where he is helping to build stronger connections with the communities we serve. Whether he is meeting with partner agencies or representing RIPTA at

outreach events, Jim brings the same passion and sense of purpose to his role, helping to ensure that equity, access, and community engagement remain central to our mission.



An image of RIPTA Employee, Darlene Diaz

Employee Spotlight: Darlene Diaz, Maintenance Records Analyst

Darlene Diaz joined RIPTA in 2006 through a temp agency, expecting a short-term role, but RIPTA quickly saw her value. After six months, she was offered a permanent position and began her career in Customer Service at Kennedy Plaza, where she remained for 13 years. In 2020, she transitioned to her current role in the Maintenance Department, bringing her frontline experience to the operational side of the organization.

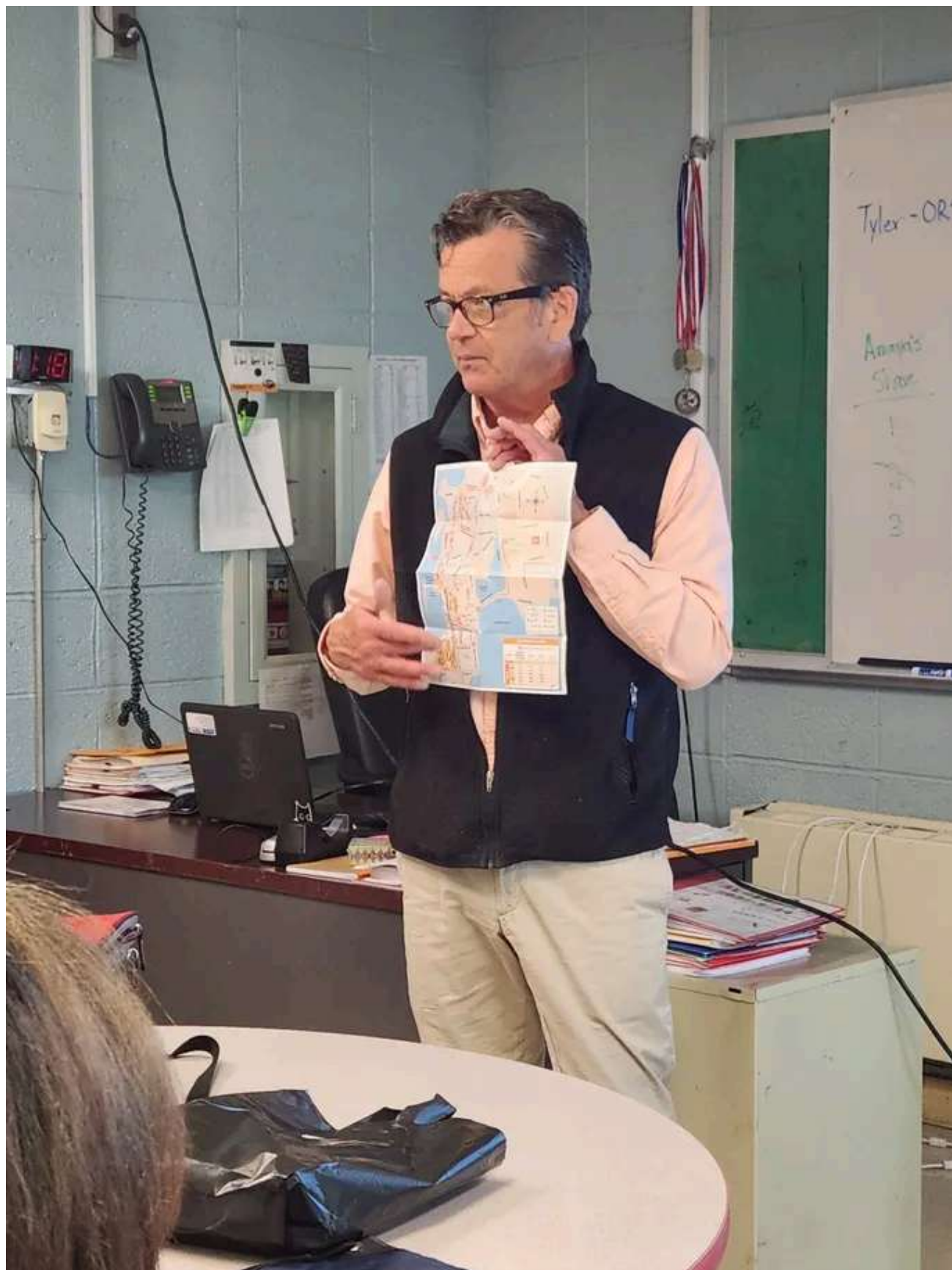
“Customer service is all about outreach,” Darlene explains. “Maintenance is more behind the scenes, it’s about helping RIPTA run from the inside.” Today, she manages maintenance personnel records, coordinates vendor paperwork for facilities, and keeps vital internal operations on track.

Over the years, Darlene has seen firsthand how every part of the agency plays a role in keeping RIPTA moving. “Customer service gave me perspective on what riders need. Now I help keep RIPTA running from the inside,” she says. “It feels good to be part of something bigger.”

Outside of work, Darlene recently welcomed her second daughter, Cora, and is navigating the joys (and exhaustion!) of being a mom to both an 18-year-old and a baby. “I’m still in shock,” she laughs. “But I’m so in love with her.”

What does she appreciate most about her current role? “Having my own space, a sense of structure, and knowing that what I do truly matters to RIPTA.” She credits her close friendships

with coworkers like Olginia and Lori, who've been by her side since she started, for making the journey even better.



A RIPTA employee explains how to read a Flex schedule.

Photo ID Road Trips for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process Reduced Fare applications for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to get to our office in Kennedy Plaza. Staff also provide travel training.

Reduced Fare Photo ID Wave cards cost \$10 and are valid for two years. Replacement cards are \$20.00. [Click here](#) to view the schedule for upcoming RIPTA Photo ID Road Trips.

RIPTA staff will process Photo ID Wave cards at the following locations:

- **NEWPORT** Thursday, July 10 • 10AM - 12PM | William Donovan Manor | 19 Chapel Street
- **PAWTUCKET** Thursday, July 17 • 10AM - 12PM | Leon Mathieu Center | 420 Main Street

For information on how to qualify for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities, customers can call (401) 784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare).



Rider Alert Graphic.

SERVICE ALERTS

Holiday Service

Fourth of July: RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All RIPTA offices will be closed on the holiday, except for the Customer Service Kiosk in the Newport Transportation Center.

Detours

Oakland Beach Fireworks Celebration: Thursday, July 3 Route 3 will be detoured on Thursday, July 3 from 5PM to Midnight. The Suburban Parkway will be closed during this time.

North Providence Fireworks Celebration: Thursday, July 3 Route 50 will be detoured from 8:45PM to 9:45PM.

Bristol Fourth of July Parade - Friday, July 4 Route 60 will be detoured from 7:45AM to 1:00PM.

Blessing of the Fleet Road Race: Friday, July 25 Routes 14 and 69 will be detoured from 3:30PM to 9PM.

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://ripta.com/alerts) for details on upcoming detours.

705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907 [unsubscribe](#)