



Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Overview

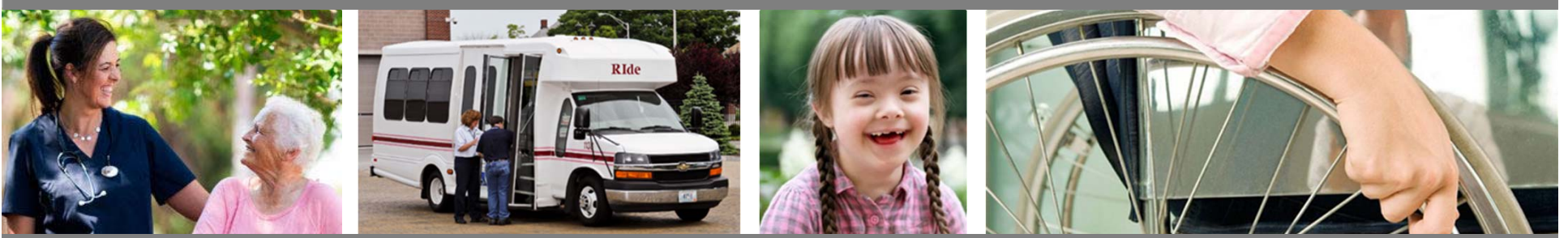
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RIPTA



Rhode Island Overview

- Human Services Transportation in Rhode Island
- Coordinated Plan
- Coordinating Council



Human Services Transportation (HST) in Rhode Island

Goal: Improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options.

Rhode Island spends more than \$60 million annually on human services transportation:

- Medicaid transportation (NEMT)
- RIPTA senior/disabled bus pass program
- RIPTA ADA paratransit service
- BHDDH transportation
- Municipal programs
- Nonprofits



RI Coordinated Public Transit + Human Services Transportation Plan

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) required plan for Section 5310 recipients to meet the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Planning process: June—December 2017.
 - Stakeholder meetings.
 - Open house workshops.
 - Almost 200 survey responses from public and private transportation providers, social service providers, and consumers.
- Final plan released: January 2018.



Coordinated Plan Priorities

- Affordability for low-income individuals
- Easy-to-access information
- Travel training for new transit customers
- Easier payment options
- On-demand trip scheduling
- More rural/suburban mobility options
- Increased frequency and span of service
- More funding for human services transportation

Recommendations

- Establish a statewide Coordinating Council
- Create an information clearinghouse
- Upgrade technology, move to dynamic scheduling
- Move toward centralized trip reservations
- Support travel training
- Identify sustainable funding for bus pass program



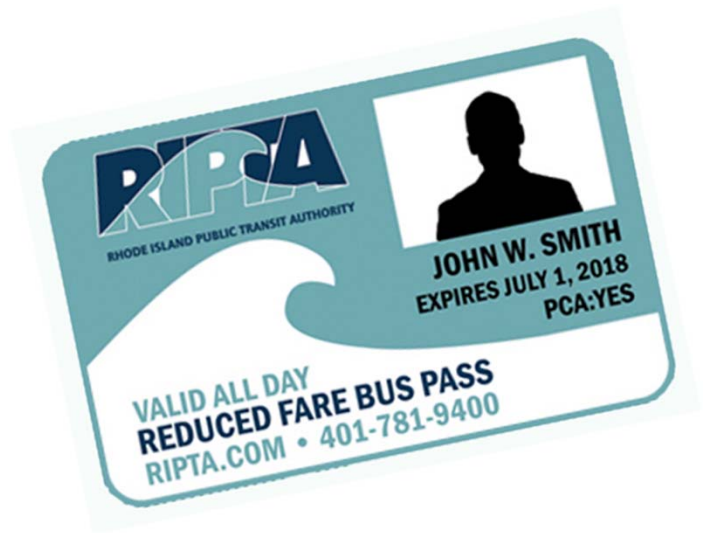
Statewide Coordinating Council: 2018



- Legislative Mandate H5175A authorized RIPTA to convene a Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council consisting of state agencies and other stakeholders to inform, develop, and implement the Coordinated Plan.
- Council began meeting in January 2018 on a bi-monthly basis.
- 20+ members at the table including providers, consumers, and advocacy organizations: RIPTA, EOHHS, Long Term Care Coordinating Council, Governor's Commission on Disabilities, RI Developmental Disabilities Council, Department of Labor and Training, Office of the Governor, Department of Administration, House and Senate Fiscal Offices, Economic Policy Institute, RI Senior Agenda, RI Organizing Project, RIPTA Riders Alliance, Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee, Age Friendly RI, and Crossroads RI.
- Focus on: information-sharing, communications, data sharing and analysis, peer agency review, funding opportunities.
- Two working groups: Bus pass funding and Communications
- Delivered report to Governor and General Assembly: 12/31/18

Coordinating Council: Year 1 Priority Bus Pass Program Funding

- The Council's first priority was to recommend sustainable funding for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program.
- This program offers 18,000 low-income Rhode Islanders with a disability, or age 65 and older, the opportunity to ride free of charge on a RIPTA bus with a no-fare bus pass.
- 13,000 participants have a disability (>70%).
5,000 are seniors (<30%).
- Collectively, these pass holders take from 4 to 6 million bus trips annually, constituting more than 25% of total RIPTA trips.
- RIPTA receives \$2.5M annual gas tax revenue for the program through Division of Elderly Affairs.



Coordinating Council Next Steps: 2019

- RIPTA staffing: new position—human services transportation planning
- Bus Pass Program funding: Article 8 of the governor’s proposed budget extends \$5.0M in funding for the Bus Pass Program to RIPTA through FY2020.
- Program partnership and communication:
 - AARP
 - Age Friendly RI
 - Community Compass (Care NE Accountable Health Communities Partnership)
 - Health Equity Zones
 - Office of Veterans Affairs
 - United Way
- Fact finding and strategic planning
- Pilot projects



Coordinating Council Meetings: 2019

- Continuation of bi-monthly Council meetings with presentations on topics:
 - Mass Mobility (January)
 - SERCCOT (March)
 - Seniors (May)
 - Disability community (July)
 - Low-income groups (September)
- Bi-monthly outreach to local communities:
 - Newport (February)
 - West Warwick (April)



For more information:



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

<https://www.ripta.com/coordinated-plan>

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