



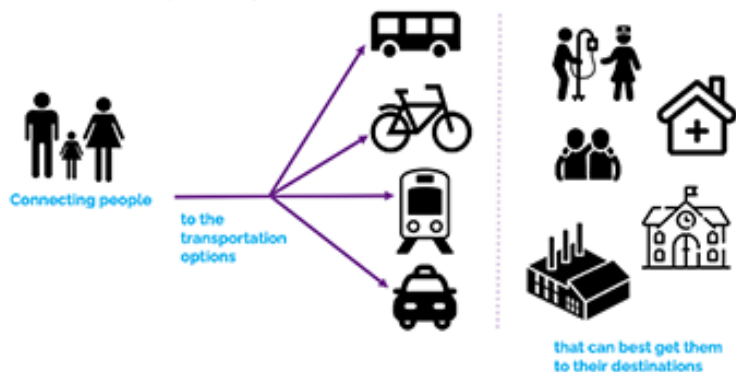
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Joint Commission on Student Transportation

January 2025

RIPTA: State Mobility Manager

What is Mobility Management? Part 1



What is Mobility Management? Part 2



- **RIPTA has been designated as the State's Mobility Manager.** This means that it is RIPTA's role to help coordinate transportation options to get people to where they want to go.
- Opportunities exist beyond the traditional public transit models that would improve mobility and RIPTA's overall budget.

Innovative Transit Solutions

- **Flex On Demand**

- Current pilot in Narragansett allows for real-time trip booking and is improving the connection between URI's Bay Campus and the main campus in South Kingstown
- Technology can be expanded to additional zones and could help RIPTA expand its reach and determine demand

- **Ride Anywhere**

- Going beyond the normal limitations of ADA service to provide more transportation options for those who need it

- **Wave to Work**

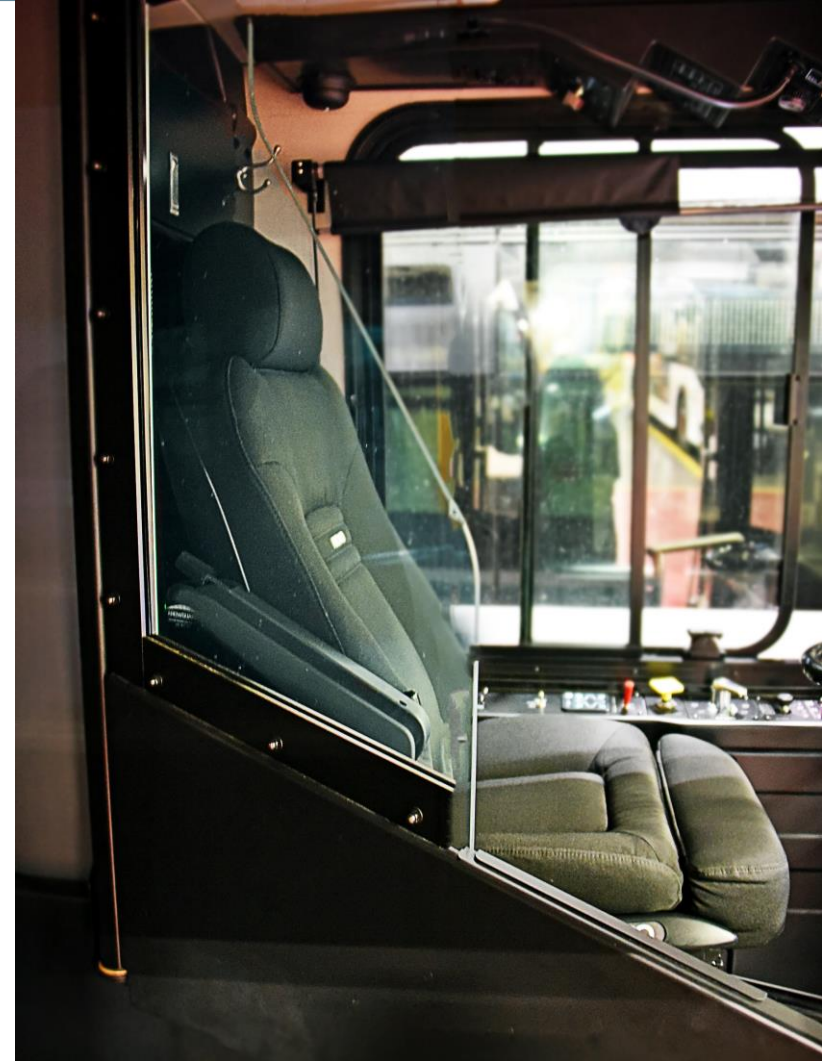
- Working with employers to help reduce transportation costs and parking costs for their employees and helping employees get to work
- Workforce investments put us well positioned to improve service where necessary

Operator Shortage

In January 2024, RIPTA announced proposed statewide service reductions in direct response to its driver shortage. The labor shortage, which has affected transit agencies across the country, directly impacts the level of service that RIPTA can provide.

Not enough operators to maintain schedules

- Increased overtime
- Increased pressure on operator
- Decreased service reliability
- Reduction in passenger satisfaction
- Reductions to service in effort to rebalance resources and workload



Workforce Investments

RIPTA Board supported a wage reopener with Local ATU 618

- \$4/hour increase in starting wage
- \$1/hour for all other job classifications

Recruitment

- With higher wages, an aggressive marketing campaign was launched

Training

- Extensive review of training program and practices
- New CDL Permit training program with RI Institute for Labor Research and Studies (ISLR)
- Added additional trainers
- **No modifications to class size or content to maintain successful processes**



**CDL PERMIT
PREP COURSE PROGRAM**

GET PAID \$25.33/HR TO STUDY

Earn \$25.33/hour while you study for your CDL test this summer with RIPTA's NEW CDL prep course program.

A PROGRAM THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Our in-person, instructor led programs located in Cranston are offered nights and weekends. No experience necessary.

SIGN UP TODAY
RIPTA.com/JOBS

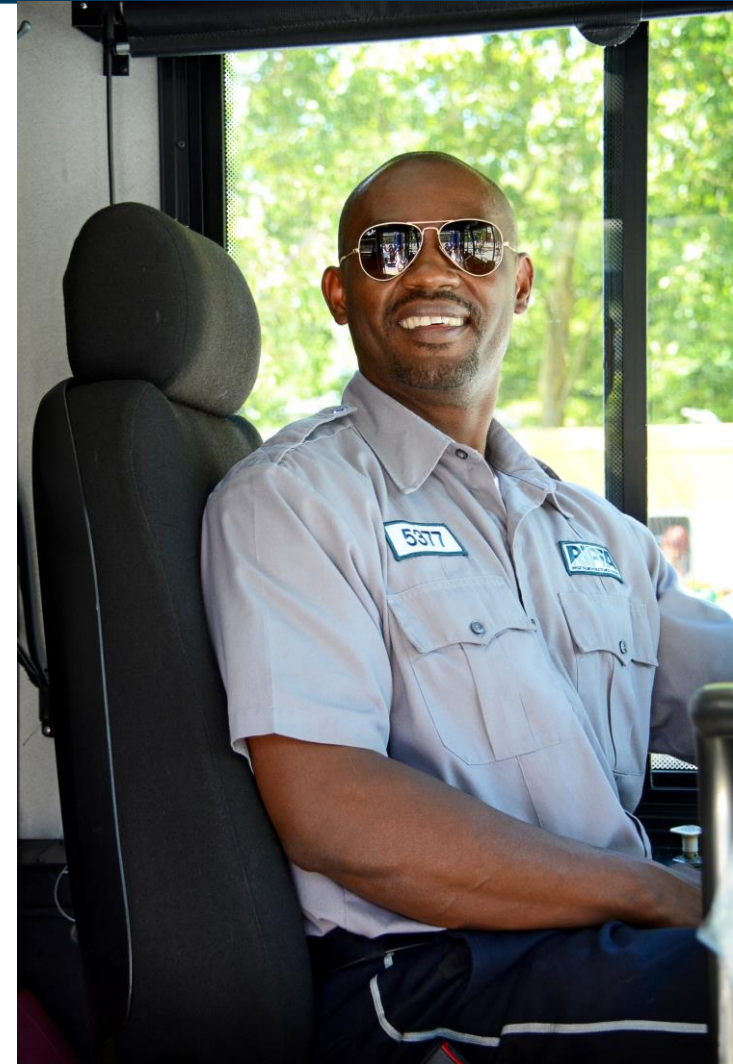


ILSR
INSTITUTE FOR LABOR
STUDIES & RESEARCH

RIPTA
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Successes

- Applications exponentially increased
- Service reductions postponed, then cancelled
- Went from 16 operators short to having hired over 40
- Service improvements with a goal of improving working conditions and system reliability in process
- More service improvements expected in Fall 2025



Priortities

Our ability to recruit and retain employees is critical to successfully executing our mission

- Continue investing in workforce with apprenticeship and mentorship programs
- Need to support with ongoing training

77 Operators (15%) currently at eligible retirement age (62); need to continue recruitment to prevent future disruptions

- A skilled workforce will allow us to improve mobility options across the state



Federal Rules

- Federal transit funds generally cannot be used for exclusive school bus services
- Public transit routes can be adjusted for school schedules if private operators and public access are protected
- The federal prohibition on school bus service only applies to federally funded assets
- If both operating and capital funds are locally supplied, then the vehicle is not subject to the charter service regulations

Statutory Reference: 49 CFR Part 605, Subpart B:
School Bus Agreements § 605.12



Providence Schools Partnership

- Providence Public Schools purchases monthly passes for eligible high school students (approximately 4,500 passes per month)
- RIPTA supplements regular service with school trippers, using approx. 10 additional buses daily
- Volume of students and location of schools on frequent routes is cost effective for both RIPTA and the District
- Modifying routes on January 18, 2025, to better move students from their schools to their neighborhoods
- All service is “open door” and available to public



Opportunities

RIPTA is committed to making service improvements and growing ridership

- Currently reviewing such opportunities with RIDE including Davies Career and Technical High School
- Almost 70% or 675 of students riding under the statewide contract attend Davies
 - North Providence – 40 Students
 - Pawtucket-Central Falls – 570 students
 - Providence – 80 students

Questions and Answers

Contact

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