

**RIPTA STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
Overview of Existing RIPTA Partnerships & Coordination Efforts  
*January 2010*

Federal Government

- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA):** main provider of RIPTA's federal grant monies and responsible for oversight of federal transit programs in RI.
- **Congressional Delegation / Staff Coordination:** RIPTA coordinates directly with these offices regarding funding needs and federal programs.

Rhode Island State Government

- **Governor's Office:** responsible for Board appointments, and forwarding RIPTA budget submission to General Assembly.
- **State Budget Office:** reviews and approves annual RIPTA budget prior to forwarding to General Assembly.
- **RI General Assembly:** defines RIPTA operating authority and provides consent on Board appointments; final approval of RIPTA budget. RIPTA presents regularly to House Finance Committee, House Committee on Separation of Powers and Oversight, and other committees as requested.
- **RI Dept. of Transportation:**
  - Responsible for transfer of flexible federal highway funds to RIPTA (e.g. CMAQ)
  - Coordinating partner on many RIPTA projects and programs
  - Developing and funding Rhode Island commuter rail projects
  - Owns and maintains most Park and Ride lots served by RIPTA
  - Co-sponsor of Commuter Resources RI
  - RIPTA maintains RIDOT vehicles
- **RI Dept. of Administration / Division of Statewide Planning:**
  - Coordinates with RIPTA on development of Long Range Transportation Plan the TIP and other transportation planning activities
  - Provides data and support (e.g. travel modal) to support RIPTA planning
  - RIPTA provides information about air quality impacts of proposed transportation projects
- **RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)** partners with RIPTA on planning efforts around human service, non-emergency medical, and public transportation needs for their consumers; providing the local match for the human services transportation study now underway.
- **RI Dept. of Human Services (DHS)** – major funder of non-emergency medical and human service transportation programs, including the services provided by the Ride Program; receives and splits \$0.01 of the gas tax with RIPTA; provides local match for some federal transit grants. Some of their divisions provide travel training.
- **RI Dept. of Elderly Affairs (DEA)** – advocates for services for seniors.

- **RI Dept. of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals** – advocates for transportation services for their populations, provides funding used by community-based agencies to pay for transportation through the Ride Program, works with DHS on transportation programs.
- **RI Dept. of Labor & Training (DLT)** – RIPTA works with DLT on issues related to access to employment for job seekers and to address employer concerns and identified need for transit services for their workers.
- **RI Office of Housing & Community Development:** funds Ride trips for eligible clients and they distribute bus fare products to agencies that serve homeless people.
- **RI Emergency Management Agency:** RIPTA provides vehicles, communications support and staff for training exercises and evacuation planning.
- **RI Dept. of Education:** RIPTA is helping to develop the new statewide student transportation plan.
- **RI Dept. of Environmental Management:** notifies RIPTA and public about Ozone Alert Days (free transit days). (DEM uses air quality days to make the public aware of the impact of poor air quality.)

#### Local Municipalities

- **City of Providence:** co-sponsor of the Metro Transit Study; RIPTA provides school transportation for Providence students; RIPTA participates in City led Greater Kennedy Plaza Working Group; RIPTA coordinates parking and transportation issues with City for the area surrounding Greater Kennedy Plaza.
- **City of Pawtucket:** provides space for Pawtucket Transit Center
- **Other Local Cities & Towns:** coordination conducted on a frequent basis regarding RIPTA service planning, municipal plans and other issues. Students in several towns use RIPTA for school transportation, for example Woonsocket, Cranston and Pawtucket, and some students on Aquidneck Island who go out of district for school.
- RIPTA is working with several communities, through Mayor's offices, City Councilpersons, and non-profit agencies to build bus shelters

#### Councils/Committees/Task Forces

- **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)** – advises the State Planning Council on transportation planning issues; provides input into the state's Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- **Greater Kennedy Plaza Working Group:** partnership of private and public entities working to improve environment in and around Kennedy Plaza
- **Aquidneck Island Transportation Study Advisory Committee:** RIPTA is an active participant in this 2-year study which includes study of transit options.
- **Transit 2020 Action Group:** partnership of private and public entities invited by Mayor Cicilline to advocate for transit enhancements in the Metro area.
- **Statewide School Transportation System Advisory Committee** – established to oversee the establishment of statewide school student transportation system.

- **Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)** – advisory committee of RIPTA made up of passengers with disabilities and representatives from agencies serving people with disabilities including the Office of Rehabilitation Services, the RI Disability Law Center, and PARI Independent Living Center.
- **Transportation Consortium** – comprised of agencies serving people with disabilities interested in coordinating transportation services and providing information for transportation planning efforts.
- **RI Emergency Management Agency Council (EMAC)** – established to review information and programs regarding emergency management and to make recommendations and advise the Governor in such issues.
  - **RI EMAC Special Needs Workgroup** – subcommittee of the RI EMAC comprised of representatives from State agencies and service providers from the community to address concerns specific to particular populations and develop solutions to better forecast resource needs during a disaster.
- **Interoperable Communications Committee** - addressing the challenges associated with the statewide communications interoperability, which affects RIPTA's radio network and emergency planning efforts.

#### Other Transit Providers

- **Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)** - provides some service in RI (Pawtucket); receives share of FTA formula funds for metro Providence area.
- **Southeastern MA Regional Transit Authority (SRTA)** – serves New Bedford and Fall River; receives share of FTA formula funds for metro Providence area.
- **Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)** – minimal coordination
- **CT Transit / Shore Line East** – no coordination at this time.

#### Institutions/ Non-Profit entities

- **Newport Convention & Visitors' Bureau:** provides berths at Newport Gateway Center, prints local Newport transit maps
- **Local Colleges & Universities:** Ten participants in RIPTA's UPass program
- **University of RI/Kingston:** special on campus service and has also offered land for RIPTA to construct South County bus garage.
- **RI Hospital:** In conversations around identifying space for bus hub.
- **ARC agencies:** ARC agencies use the Ride program to arrange group transportation to workshops for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Coalition for Transportation Choice:** formed in fall 2009, this advocacy group represents a coalition of non-profit groups committed to improving transit service in RI
- **Coalition for Homeless:** Fare products
- **RIPTA Rider Receipt Program:** local museums and businesses provide discounts to RIPTA riders.
- **Local Artists:** RIPTA has been working with local artists to include the installation of public art components as part of capital projects (e.g. locally designed shelters).

### Private Businesses

- **Lamar Advertising:** provides and maintains shelters in exchange for advertising
- **Stop & Shop:** sells RIPTA fare products
- **EcoPass subscribers:** several private employers participate in RIPTA's program, allowing employers to pay a reduced fare for employee transit trips.
- **Employers who subsidize transit:** Includes pre-tax programs, half and full subsidy of existing RIPTA fare products.
- **Providence Place Mall:** provides discounted parking for carpoolers through Commuter Resources RI.
- **Wageworks:** national company setting up commuter benefits program for private employers
- **Maher Regional Coach:** private company providing RIde services under contract to the statewide brokerage; RIPTA maintains vehicles.
- **Northwest Transportation:** private company providing RIde services under contract to the statewide brokerage; RIPTA maintains vehicles.
- **Next Marine:** won contract to provide Providence-Newport ferry service in 2009

### Professional Transit Associations

- **American Public Transit Association (APTA)**
- **NorthEast Transportation Association (NEPTA)**
- **Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA)**