

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**RIPTA Transportation Conference Room
705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02907
Thursday, December 6, 2018
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Attendees: Rui Cabral (Chair), Monica Dzialo, Heather Schey, Lisa Stamp and Mark Sousa

RIPTA Staff in attendance: Mark Therrien, Jim Vincent, Greg Nordin, and Joelle Kanter

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Rui Cabral called the meeting to order at 4:21 PM. Greg Nordin introduced Joelle Kanter, RIPTA’s new human services transportation planner.

II. Follow up from Previous Meeting

Mark Therrien reported that staffing for the ATAC is undergoing a transition. The Planning staff is committed to managing the committee, and Ride staff will continue to participate while focusing on operations.

III. RIPTA Reports

This meeting did not have a quorum. Moving forward, Joelle Kanter will contact committee members to confirm a quorum in advance.

Mark Therrien reported that the new caravans will begin service in early January. They have different engines and ramps instead of lifts, so drivers will be trained on how to use them. At the January ATAC meeting, the committee will have an opportunity to see one of the vans. The committee also suggested letting customers know which type of vehicle they are waiting for. RIPTA will consider planning a communications/PR campaign to keep riders informed about the new vans.

The committee also discussed the range in quality of RIPTA’s taxi service providers.

• Stop Announcement Compliance

Joelle Kanter shared a brief report compiled by Jim Vincent, RIPTA’s Compliance Officer, about RIPTA’s fixed-route performance. In October, 98 trips were monitored and documented. 94 trips were 100% compliant, meeting ADA requirements including stop announcements, wheelchair securement, use of the lift/ramp, and basic customer service functions. The overall compliance rate was 96%.

IV. Transit Forward RI

RIPTA, RIDOT, and the RI Division of Statewide Planning are coordinating the state's first transit master plan, Transit Forward RI, looking at all transportation modes over the next twenty years. The first public meetings are planned in Providence, Woonsocket, and Newport next week. They will be accessible, and Ride will waive restrictions for ATAC members who want to go. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The meetings will include a formal presentation followed by an open house where people will have opportunities to visit stations and provide comments. The project corresponds with the state's long range master plan and should be completed by the end of next year.

V. Ride/RIPTA Service Feedback

Several customers recently contacted RIPTA to share their recommendations. At a separate meeting with RIPTA staff, Heidi Showstead requested that advocacy should be added as an agenda item at the next ATAC meeting.

VI. Other Reports

- Logisticare service will end at the end of the month, and MTM's contract will begin January 1st.
- In April, the National Transit Institute is hosting a two-day course in Providence on Managing Community Mobility. If ATAC members want to attend, they should let Greg or Joelle know.
- Mark wants to discuss policies regarding service animals at the next meeting.
- **Revision: After this discussion about the 2019 meeting schedule, in January, the committee changed meeting dates to accommodate RIPTA staff. Instead of meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month, meetings were moved to the first Thursday, from 4-6 PM. February and July 2019 meetings are not scheduled.**
- Heather Schey reported on a challenging Ride trip home last week. She will share specific details with Mark.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.