



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## CARES Act Spending Plan and Feedback

June 2020

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# Impacts of COVID-19 to RIPTA

## Financial Impacts

- Through May 2020 (Fiscal Year 2020):
  - Passenger Revenues are under budget by \$3,692,048
  - Paratransit Passenger Revenues are under budget by \$851,438
- Between now and FY 2025, RIPTA expects to lose between \$50-\$80 Million
  - Loss expected of \$10.9 million in FY 2020 and \$11.2 million in 2021
  - Permanent declines in both gas tax and passenger revenue expected
- Additional costs incurred to ensure buses and facilities are frequently cleaned and to enable remote working for administrative staff

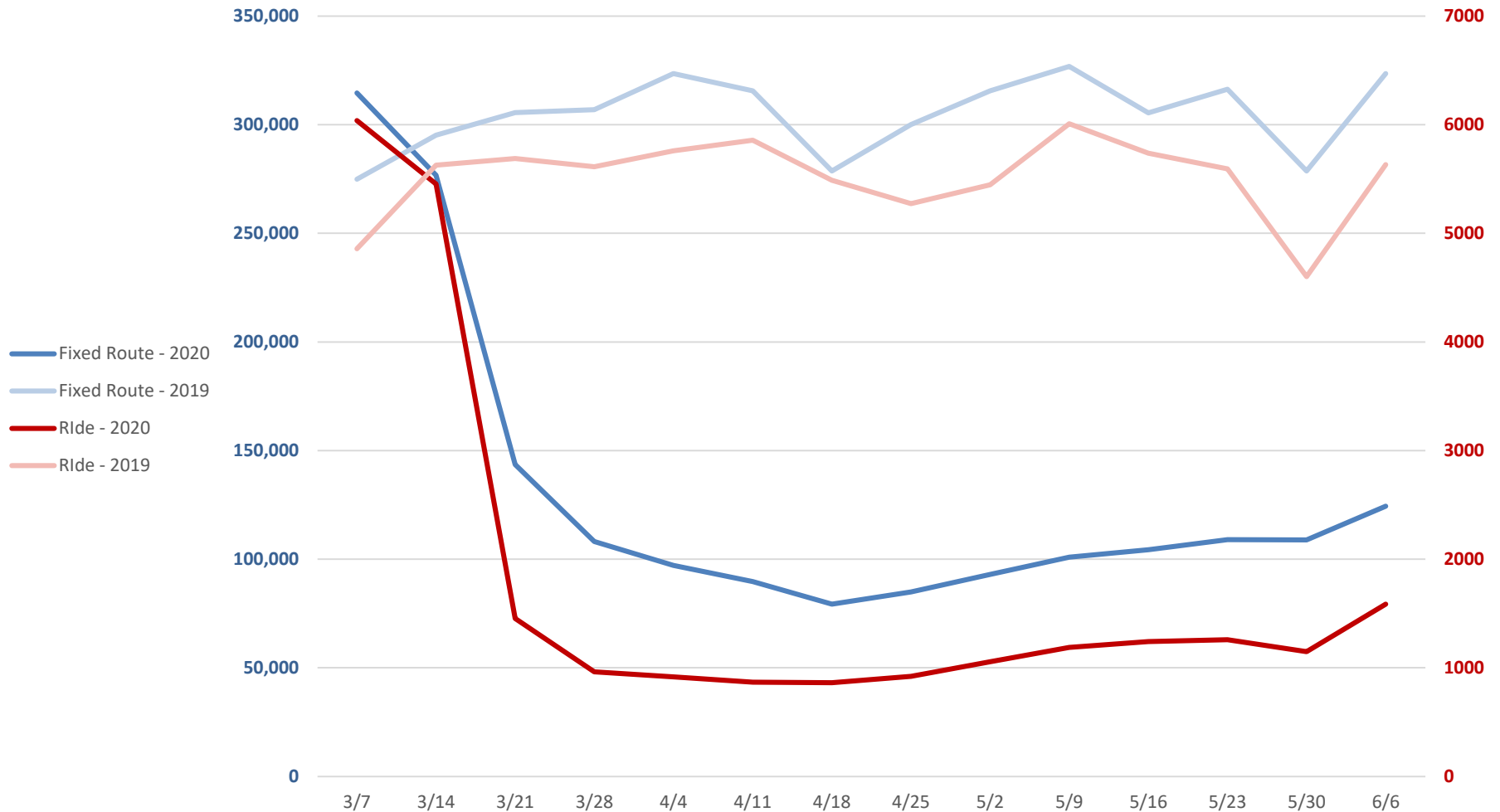
# Impacts of COVID-19 to RIPTA

## Service Impacts

- Fixed route service has largely been un-impacted by COVID-19.
- Underutilized paratransit service has been redeployed:
  - Support fixed route service overcrowding
  - Meal delivery for Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island
  - Transporting Honeywell employees
  - Operating the Little Rody autonomous shuttle pilot
  - Meal delivery with the RI Office of Healthy Aging
- As ridership returns, RIPTA may re-deploy resources to meet demand, if needed.
  - Potentially reduce service on low-performing routes to add frequency on busier routes to accommodate social distancing
  - RIPTA is also exploring opportunities to expand service.

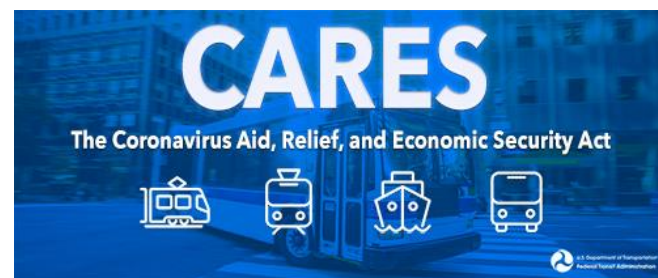
# Impacts of COVID-19 to RIPTA

## Impacts on Ridership



# CARES Act Overview

- Passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020.
- Provides \$2 Trillion in emergency funding across many sectors.
- \$25 Billion included for public transit across the country.
- RIPTA received \$91,233,702.
- RIDOT received \$13,346,035.
- Funding supports “capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and response to COVID-19.”
  - [transit.dot.gov/cares-act](https://transit.dot.gov/cares-act)
- Funds can cover costs dating back to January 20, 2020, and funding has no expiration dates.



# Proposed Spending Plan

- RIPTA has received \$91,233,702 from the Federal government in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- RIPTA staff, in consultation with RIDOT and the Governor's office, have created a spending plan that focuses on five key areas:
  - Covering Lost Revenue
  - Direct Response to COVID-19
  - Stabilizing RIPTA
  - Rebuilding Ridership
  - Resiliency and Sustainability

# Proposed Spending Plan

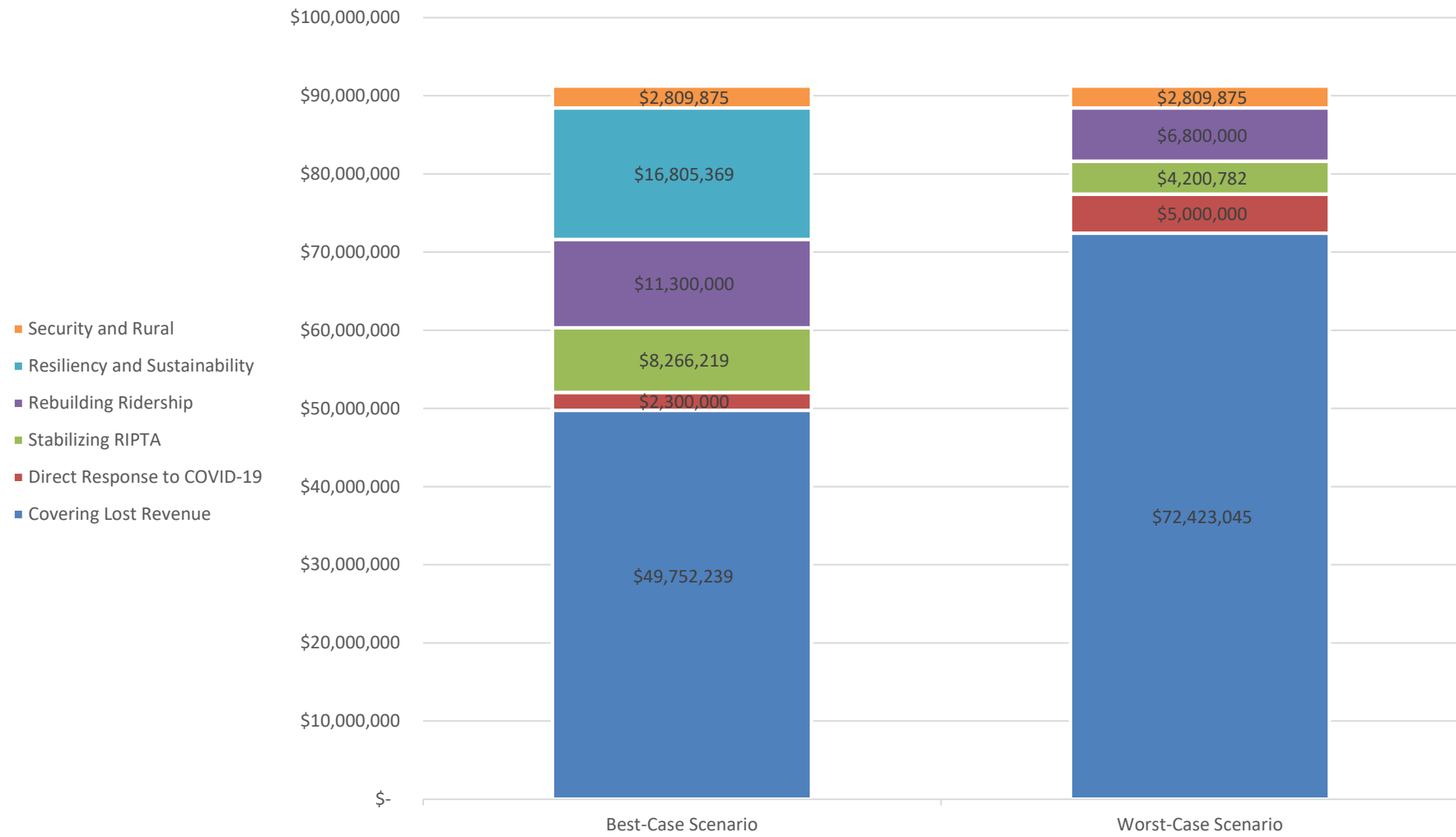
- Projects that are a direct response to COVID-19 include:
  - Purchasing and leasing additional vehicles to grow service
  
- Projects to stabilize RIPTA include:
  - Orders for new vehicles (2021 and 2022) and improvements to the East Side Bus Tunnel will be matched by revenues from the state's gas tax.
  - On-going operations for RIPTA will be funded with CARES Act funding.
  - Provide funds for potential cost overruns on the Pawtucket/Central Falls Transit Hub that are directly related to COVID-19



# Proposed Spending Plan

- Projects to rebuild RIPTA's ridership include:
  - Development of a marketing campaign
  - Targeted promotions to reduce fares
  - Expanding service
  
- Projects to focusing on resiliency and sustainability include:
  - Upgrades to RIPTA's IT systems
  - Deployment of WAVE readers on Ride vehicles
  - Investments in passenger-facing technologies
  - Improvements to bus stops across the state
  - Upgrades to RIPTA's campus
  
- In addition to the five areas, RIPTA must spend a portion of CARES funds on projects specifically related to security and service in rural areas.

# Proposed Spending Plan



# Opportunities Created with CARES Act Funds

- While COVID-19 has had catastrophic impacts on the transit industry, the CARES Act presents real opportunity for RIPTA, including potential projects:
  - Expansion of RIPTA's Wave Fare Collection system to new markets
  - Infusion of funding to the Pawtucket/Central Falls Bus Hub
  - Additional resources for RIPTA's Zero Emissions Vehicle pilot program
  - Creation of a community van program



# Opportunities Created with CARES Act Funds

- Many projects within RIPTA were unimpacted by COVID-19, including:
  - Chafee Maintenance Facility Modernization Project (\$6.6M)
  - URI/CCRI Bus Hub Project (\$10.1M)
  - Quonset Bulkhead Improvements (\$0.7M)

# Feedback and Comment

1. Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person.
2. All comments will be recorded and compiled for RIPTA's Board of Directors.
3. If you would like to submit your comments in writing, that can be done by emailing [marketing@ripta.com](mailto:marketing@ripta.com) no later than **June 19, 2020**.
4. If you would like to submit your comments over the phone, that can be done by calling **401-784-9500 x1171** and leaving a voicemail no later than **June 19, 2020**.