



RIPTA

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Press Kit

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RIPTA'S MISSION

is to provide **SAFE, RELIABLE, and COST-EFFECTIVE**

Transit Service
with a **skilled** team of
professionals
all of whom are **dedicated** to
our riders, the environment,
and a **commitment** to
EXCELLENCE.

Uniquely positioned to provide public transportation to the entirety of our state, RIPTA offers access to all the beauty, activities, and opportunity that Rhode Island has to offer.

And much like our convenient statewide coverage, this press kit will provide a tour of the RIPTA brand, organization, and media resources. From our leadership to our logo, we've gathered our most important information to help you put your story together— and reach us with ease.

We hope you enjoy the ride!

a look **back**

Mass transit made its first appearance in Rhode Island during the Civil War. For the next 100 years, the private sector ran transit with horse-drawn omnibuses that served the state's first routes.

In **1865** the privately-owned Union Railroad began operating a horse-railroad system. The electric trolley car debuted in **1889** and annual ridership surged—climbing to 24 million in **1892** and 34 million by **1897**. The Union Railroad became the Rhode Island Company in **1902** and took on the task of linking utility companies with railway operations. In **1906**, the New Haven Railroad acquired the company. Reorganized in **1921** as the United Electric Railways (UER), the company oversaw the transit system's daily operations in RI. At this time, the state also became involved in transit, placing the system under the regulatory authority of the public utilities commission and making it eligible for certain tax exemptions.

In **1926**, the New England Power Company purchased the UER and the RI Service Company, then took over the operations of the transit system. But the Great Depression in **1930** stopped service improvements. Service reductions soon followed and ridership and revenue fell. Gas rationing during WWII revived transit in RI and ridership soared to 151.4 million in **1944**. When gas became available again, people adopted personal vehicles and ridership fell. Transit in RI was reinvented in **1951** under the United Transit Company (UTC), carrying over 100 million passengers. By **1955**, diesel and gas buses had replaced the trackless trolley. As more people acquired cars, transit ridership declined, dwindling from 100 million to 20 million.

Created in **1964**, the RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) was the end of transit system privatization. RIPTA began operations on July 1, **1966** and two years later, annual ridership was up to 21 million. Over the next 15 years, RIPTA doubled the bus miles traveled, and By **1979**, nearly 70% of RI residents could access transit service. As RIPTA continued to expand the statewide system in the early **1980s**, ridership climbed. On the eve of the **21st century**, RIPTA began an ongoing initiative to build a quality mass transit system offering improved service, new technologies, mobility options, and convenient, economic alternatives to single occupant vehicles.

Between **1999** and **2002**, RIPTA initiated a number of positive changes. These included: introducing the Providence LINK system, using clean fuel (CNG) trolleys for the LINK's two lines; constructing the state-of-the-art John H. Chafee Transportation Maintenance and Operations Center; upgrading the fleet; and introducing a seasonal Providence/Newport ferry service. RIPTA also opened a new Kennedy Plaza passenger terminal and bus berth facility, introduced Flex Service in suburban communities, and became the major carrier for RIde, the statewide paratransit program that serves the elderly and individuals with disabilities. RIPTA continued to upgrade the fleet, started using ultra low sulfur fuel—winning praise from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—and introduced electronic fare technology.

SOURCES

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) thanks URI Professor D. Scott Molloy for the historical information on transit in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Transit Album
(Boston: Boston Street Railway Association, Inc., 1978) p. 3

RIPTA plans to continue reinventing transit in Rhode Island in order to provide residents and visitors with cost effective and excellent service for years to come!

facts & figures

Established in 1966 as a quasi-public, independent authority, RIPTA is authorized to operate public transit services throughout the State of Rhode Island.

- RIPTA has provided **55 years of statewide service** (1966-2021).
- Governed by an **8-member appointed** Board of Directors.
- Serves **36 of 39** Rhode Island communities.
- Operates **7 days a week**.
- Operates **2,794 daily trips on weekdays**, 1,641 on Saturday, 1,123 on Sunday on 59 statewide fixed bus routes.
- Operates **ADA Paratransit Service** statewide.
- Administers **statewide Rlde program** for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Operates **Flex Service** in 10 Rhode Island communities.
- Provides **Park n' Ride Service** at 32 sites around the State of Rhode Island.
- Operates **11,111,495 million fixed-route vehicle miles** annually.
- **Maintains a fleet** of 240 fixed-route buses, 94 paratransit vans and 17 Flex vans.
- Utilizes over **2,006,273.83 million gallons** of fuel per year.
- Employs **800 people**.
- Operates and maintains **two facilities in Providence** and **one in Newport**.

FY 2020 Ridership...

Fixed-Route Bus **15,950,460**

Flex Services **78,928**

Rlde Senior/ADA/Disabled Program **384,218**

Van Pool Service **17,990**

Total 16,431,596

rider**ship**

RIPTA is dedicated to providing top-quality, affordable transportation services for all riders—developing several programs and seasonal features to meet their diverse transit needs.

Commuters

RIPTA's Commuter Resource RI program (CRRI) helps Rhode Islanders get around the state while saving time, money and the environment. CRRI is dedicated to helping the public navigate RIPTA services as well as providing guidance for using other commuting alternatives such as carpooling, biking and walking to work. Our transit specialists are available to talk to your group, business, or school to help people explore all of their commuting options. commuter@ripta.com

Riders with Disabilities

Low-income passengers with a disability who are still able to use a fixed-route bus may qualify for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program for Low-Income Seniors and People with Disabilities. Passengers who qualify for this program are currently able to ride for free.

Ride Program

The Ride Program is for people with disabilities that prevent the use of fixed-route buses. RIPTA offers paratransit service through the Ride Program, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA Paratransit provides door to door service and requires advance reservations. [401-461-9760](tel:401-461-9760)

Seniors

In compliance with federal transit guidelines, RIPTA offers half-fare boarding to seniors and persons with disabilities, regardless of income, during off-peak hours. Enrolled passengers are issued Wave photo ID smart cards and pay full fare during peak hours (7am-9am, 3pm-6pm) on weekdays. They can also use a Medicare card to board. If age 65+ and also low income, they may qualify for further assistance under RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program for Low-Income Seniors and People with Disabilities. Qualifying passengers currently ride for free. [401-784-9500 x2012](tel:401-784-9500)

Students

Funded by colleges and universities, the University Pass Program (U-PASS), allows students and/or faculty at participating schools to receive transit benefits. Students can ride using their student ID or purchase reduced fare products on campus, depending on the school. For more information, call RIPTA's Commuter Resource RI Program at [401-784-9575](tel:401-784-9575).

Veterans

Veterans in need of transportation support can contact the RI Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) at [401-921-2175](tel:401-921-2175), or visit RIServes at riserves.org, and complete their request assistance form. Some also qualify for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program for Low-Income Seniors (age 65+) and People with Disabilities. Click to [learn more](#).

leadership



Scott Avedisian, **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Scott Avedisian became Chief Executive Officer of RIPTA in 2018 after serving as Mayor of the City of Warwick for 18 years and four years as Chairman of RIPTA's Board of Directors. His tenure in Warwick showcased his commitment to good government and public service. Under his leadership, RIPTA is working to grow transit use in RI and to pursue partnerships with educational institutions, businesses and the tourism industry. At the same time, he is looking at creative ways to build better connections for our riders.

"Better transit means a better future for our state."

Email care of ceoexecutiveassistant@ripta.com



Normand Benoit, **BOARD CHAIR**



Peter Alviti, **BOARD MEMBER**



Joshua H. Brumberger, **BOARD MEMBER**



Maureen Martin, **BOARD MEMBER**

To contact board members
please email in care of
boardinfo@ripta.com



Robert Kells, **BOARD MEMBER**

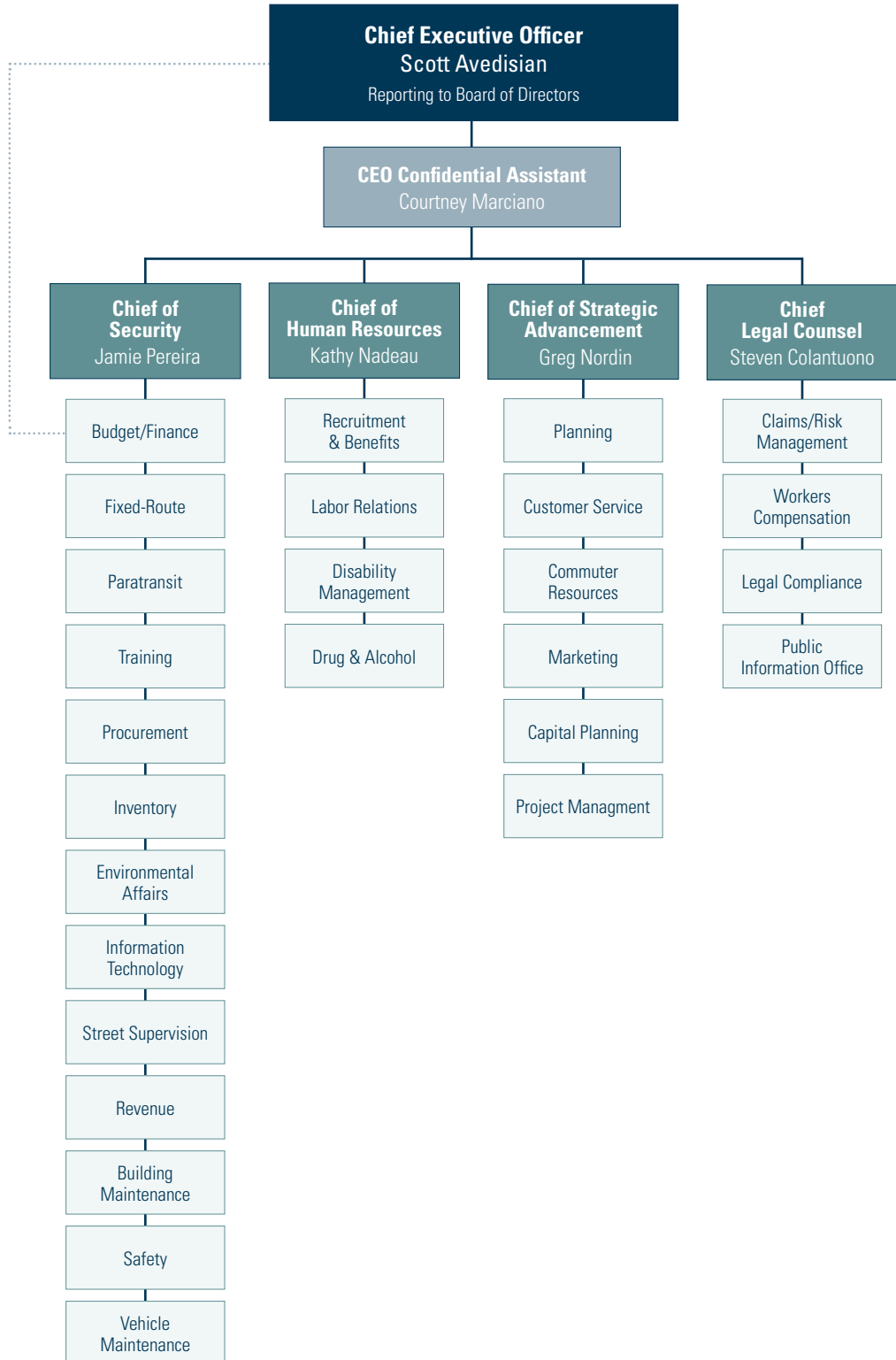


Michelle Wilcox, **BOARD MEMBER**



Marcy Reyes, **BOARD MEMBER**

organizational chart



media assets

The resources below may be downloaded and used to represent RIPTA on approved publications and media. [CLICK LOGOS TO DOWNLOAD](#)



2-COLOR

RIPTA
Logo &
Tagline

DARK BLUE

Pantone: PMS 547
CMYK: 100/11/20/82
RGB: 0/49/60
HEX: 00313C

TEAL

Pantone: PMS 5493
CMYK: 51/15/20/3
RGB: 127/169/174
HEX: 7FA9AE



1-COLOR

RIPTA
Logo &
Tagline

BLACK

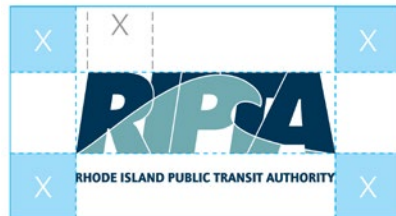


1-COLOR

RIPTA
Logo &
Tagline

WHITE/REVERSE

Please maintain our Acceptable Usage Guidelines when using the RIPTA Logo. For more information on our Brand guidelines you may request our Brand Style Guide by emailing marketing@RIPTA.com.



LOGO SAFE AREA:

The Safe Area [X] is equal to the top of the "R" in the RIPTA logo. Always be sure that other graphic elements do not cross over into this safe area.

LOGO MINIMUM SIZING:

Print: 1.5" Web: 250px



DO NOT...

Alter the individual components of the RIPTA logomark (i.e. scale, position, typography)

Stretch, distort, rotate, or change the colors of the RIPTA logo.

Place the RIPTA logo over full-color photography, illustration, or background colors that impair its legibility.

social & contact



[@RideRIPTA >](#)



[@RIPTA_RI >](#)



[Press Releases >](#)

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Sr. Marketing Coordinator
401-784-9500 x1242
raposo@RIPTA.com

General Phone Numbers

Schedule Information: 401-781-9400
Ride Paratransit Reservations: 401-461-9760
Commuter Resource RI: 401-784-9575

Administration Offices: 401-784-9500
Flex Service Reservations: 401-784-9500 x1220
TDD RI Relay: 401-222-5300 (Deaf/HOH Consumers)

Customer Service

Agents available Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm: 401-784-9500 x2012