

**July 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island
Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council**

The Coordinating Council meeting was held online through Zoom and called to order at 2:04 PM. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

Catherine Taylor motioned to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Coordinating Council meeting. Meghan Connelly seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

RIPTA staff shared updates on several projects, beginning with the RIPTA Wave human services fare technology integration study. This project has involved outreach to organizations about establishing institutional Wave accounts that allow them to fund their clients' bus trips through an account-based fare system.

The next announcement was about the forthcoming update of the state's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. RIPTA is preparing to issue a request for proposals for a consultant to assist with updating the plan, last approved in January 2018, in accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements. The Council will be expected to take an active role in the project.

RIPTA also shared recommendations from the One-Call/One-Click planning study, which was completed in June. Development of a One-Call/One-Click system was one of the primary recommendations of the 2018 Coordinated Plan, and involves providing customized trip planning information for multiple transportation providers in a given geographic area through websites and phone numbers.

Following the planning study, RIPTA plans to enhance the information targeted to older adults and individuals with disabilities on its website, www.ripta.com. It also plans to feature pages listing transportation options available in each Rhode Island municipality. Once the changes in this phase are complete, RIPTA will begin examining options for enhancing its trip planning feature to include multiple transportation providers.

After the project updates, RIPTA staff led a continuation of the discussion on mobility management from the previous meeting. Participants shared the following comments:

- In the northwest corner of the state in particular, few accessible vans operate at night and on weekends, so individuals who use wheelchairs have trouble getting to events outside the typical 9-5 workday.
- It would be interesting to learn more about Massachusetts' experience with incentivizing accessible Uber/Lyft vehicles and developing local on-demand services.
- It may be helpful to establish work groups to examine specific issues and report on them to the Coordinating Council. For example, a funding work group could explore issues related to identifying and leveraging resources for human services transportation.
- In order to build a transportation system that everyone can use, the Coordinating Council may want to look at the accessibility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities together. For example, people with disabilities may be interested in utilizing some of the community transportation services intended for seniors, but the current schedules may be limiting for them.
- The Council should investigate partnerships that enable multiple municipalities to share vehicles for different purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM.



Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council

July 12, 2021 Attendance List

Council Members	Organization	Present?
Nicole Arias	RI Office of Healthy Aging	By phone
Moise Bougdeau	RI Office of Healthy Aging	By phone
Jeffrey Clark	Veteran Services USA	By phone
Meghan Connelly	RI Office of Veterans Services	By phone
Kristina Contreras Fox	RI Coalition to End Homelessness	By phone
Rachel Fichtenbaum	Mass Mobility	By phone
Caroline Gangji	Age-Friendly Rhode Island	By phone
Tina Guenette Pedersen	RAMP	By phone
Nate Hannon	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	By phone
Ehren Hunt	TriCounty CAP	By phone
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	By phone
Arthur Johnson	2-1-1/United Way of RI	By phone
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	By phone
Anne LeClerc	RI Dept. of Behavioral Health & Hospitals	By phone
Jason Lyon	RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services	By phone
Greg Nordin	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	By phone
Mario Olivieri	RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services	By phone
Juan Carlos Payero	RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services	By phone
Darlene Reza Rossi	AARP Rhode Island	By phone
Paul Salera	Westbay CAP	By phone
Heidi Showstead	Disability advocate	By phone
Catherine Taylor	AARP Rhode Island	By phone