

**September 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island  
Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council**

The Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council) meeting was held in RIPTA's Transportation Board Room, 269 Melrose Street, Providence, and was called to order at 2:09 PM. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

Maria Cimini motioned to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Coordinating Council meeting. Jason Lyon seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Coordinating Council membership

Following introductions, Sarah Ingle, RIPTA's Long Range Planning Director, described the formation of the Coordinating Council, which was one of the current statewide Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan's primary recommendations. Following the General Assembly's enabling legislation, RIPTA has convened bi-monthly Coordinating Council meetings since early 2018 with meetings held virtually since spring 2020.

RIPTA now intends to formalize the group and reengage state agency partners that have significant roles in coordinating transportation. Several agencies were asked to designate representatives to participate in meetings every other month (and smaller workgroups as needed). While the Council is comprised of state partners for now, RIPTA plans to continue engaging partner organizations that are not official members.

Agency representatives were asked to describe the key issues they have been facing and how they relate to transportation. They include:

- RI Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS), which provides vocational rehabilitation, education advocacy for people with disabilities, and travel training;
- RI Department of Health (DOH) which views issues of housing and transportation through a strategic framework focusing on social determinants of health;
- RI Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) which manages the veterans grant program;

- RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS) which oversees the NEMT/TANF and ETP programs;
- RI Division of Statewide Planning, which manages the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), a 4-year fiscally constrained plan that prescribes funding for roads and alternative transportation projects, and ensures compliance with Title VI and environmental justice regulations;
- RI Department of Human Services (DHS) which serves nearly 1/3 of the state's residents, administering SNAP and TANF benefits, and assisting clients with determining Medicaid eligibility.

Other agencies involved but not represented at the meeting are the RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH); the RI Office of Healthy Aging; and the RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT).

#### Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Following the discussion, Sarah shared an update on the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan, which was most recently prepared in 2017. The plan follows a requirement to coordinate investments through the FTA Section 5310 program for older adults and individuals with disabilities with other federally funded programs.

Sarah described concerns that were voiced during the last planning process and identified recommendations that emerged, such as developing an information clearinghouse, conducting travel training, creating easier payment options, and pursuing sustainable funding for the bus pass program. She also gave progress reports on projects that are currently underway, including the One-Call/One-Click Study, a Mobility on Demand pilot project, and joint procurement of vehicles.

RIPTA is now preparing to issue a request for proposals from consultants to launch the update of the Coordinated Plan, which should be completed in about a year, incorporating Transit Master Plan recommendations and building on the Coordinating Council's progress. The planning process will include a significant public engagement component, and Coordinating Council members will play an important role by engaging their networks of providers, consumers, and decision makers.

### Member updates

- RIPTA is currently conducting a rider survey that supports Title VI compliance by ensuring equitable services.
- Maria Cimini announced that the RI Department of Human Services is moving two office locations to Pond Street (Woonsocket) and the Network RI office at 1 Reservoir Avenue (Providence). The 40 Fountain Street (Providence) office will remain open as well.

### Public comments

- Heidi Ross shared recommendations to host hybrid meetings, provide refugees with information about RIPTA services, and add information related to dementia on RIPTA's webpage targeted to seniors.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 PM.



**Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council**  
**September 13, 2021 Attendance List**

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Christopher Ausura	RI Dept. of Health	Yes
Benny Bergantino	RI Division of Statewide Planning	Yes
Jean Bousquet (alternate)	RI Office of Rehabilitation Services	Yes
Maria Cimini	RI Dept. of Human Services	Yes
Laurie Diorio	RI Office of Rehabilitation Services	Yes
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Jason Lyon	RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services	Yes
Jennifer Marquis-Caruso	RI Office of Veterans Services	Yes
Greg Nordin	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes

Others Present

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Patricia Raub	RI Transit Riders	Yes
Heidi Ross	Community advocate	Yes