



## **March 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council**

The Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council (Coordinating Council) meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM in the RIPTA board room, 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, and online through Microsoft Teams. An attendance sheet is attached to these minutes.

Joelle Kanter, RIPTA planner, began by announcing the Coordinating Council's vision: accessible, coordinated statewide mobility for all Rhode Islanders.

Lorna Oinonen motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Coordinating Council meeting. Mario Olivieri seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Anne Galbraith then presented on the Rhode Island travel training project, funded through an FTA Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) grant to leverage current training resources and improve training delivery by case managers, senior center staff, and other program staff. A working group is convening to identify resources, review new and updated training materials, and help frame a potential statewide travel training network. Together with the consultant team, they've recommended minor edits to some existing RIPTA resources and proposed a series of new materials including a curriculum for travel trainers and new pocket guides and videos for riders. Anne requested feedback, asking which organizations should play a role, how they can provide input, and whether periodic meetings would be helpful. Suggestions included adding information about other transportation services, incorporating multicultural perspectives, translating materials into Spanish, and ensuring accessibility.

Following the presentation, Joelle gave an update on RIPTA's Phase Two Low-Income Pilot Program in partnership with selected organizations: Mathewson Street Church, Turning Around Ministries (Newport), Blackstone Valley CAP, Community Care Alliance, Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP), East Bay CAP (EBCAP), and Tri-County CAP. All participants received photo ID Wave cards that remained active through the end of February, and after that, they must request a renewal to continue receiving funding. In March and April, RIPTA is offering monthly passes to these partner organizations at no cost, and in May and June, RIPTA is giving the partners a 50% discount on fare products for pilot participants. At this point, RIPTA is not opening the pilot program to new participants.



Joelle then shared several other RIPTA updates:

- Public hearings were held throughout the state last month on proposed service changes resulting from a critical workforce shortage. All public input and staff recommendations will go to RIPTA's Board of Directors for a vote.
- RIPTA's Ride Anywhere Pilot Program fulfills a requirement in the FY24 state budget to expand service beyond the current paratransit service area. Ride vans are used for wheelchair service while taxis are used for ambulatory service. RIPTA is collecting data on total passenger trips, unique riders, and average costs for each vehicle type.
- RIPTA is under contract with partners on the Providence Transit Center (P3) project. Partners met last week and will develop a public engagement plan, with workshop announcements expected soon.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 PM.



**Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council  
March 11, 2024 Attendance List (in person and Teams)**

Name	Organization
Denisse Abreu	Integra Community Care Network
Benny Bergantino	RI Division of Statewide Planning
Jean Bousquet	RI Office of Rehabilitation Services
Meghan Connelly	RI Office of Healthy Aging
Jacques Dextrateur	RI Office of Veterans Services
Laurie Diorio	RI Office of Rehabilitation Services
Kim Einloth	Town of New Shoreham
Anne Galbraith	ASG Planning
Ishaa Gatkari	RI Department of Health
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Pam Jennings	Mathewson Street Church
Peter Joly	RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Maureen Maigret	Senior Agenda Coalition
Denise Meza	RI Office of Healthy Aging
Amethys Nieves	RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
Lorna Oinonen	AARP RI
Mario Olivieri	RI Executive Office of Health & Human Services
Kimberly Rauch	RI Department of Human Services
Bob Robillard	Coventry Resource and Senior Center
Kimberly Rauch	RI Department of Human Services
Holly Snyder	AARP RI