





## RIPTA Board Approves Fare Changes

At its meeting on Dec. 14, 2015, the RIPTA Board of Directors voted unanimously to change some pricing for full-fare customers as well as the introduction of a new reduced fare for passengers who currently ride for free

under our pass program for people who are low income and also elderly or have disabilities. The vote came after a comprehensive fare study and months of public presentations which culminated with 12 statewide public hearings in November.

This was not an easy decision for RIPTA. Approximately 5.4 million trips a year – one-quarter of all our annual service – are taken by no-fare passengers.

RIPTA has to absorb almost all the cost of this service and this is not sustainable. While the public hearings were held on a proposal to introduce a half-fare (\$1 per boarding) for passengers who are elderly or have disabilities, the board reduced that amount to up to 50-cents (or up to ¼ of full price) in order to lessen the impact. We also hope that ongoing talks with the state Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) and other state agencies will help identify other resources and programs that might be of assistance to these passengers.

The fare changes as approved by the board are:

### Full Fare Customers:

These changes will go into effect March 1, 2016

Base fare will remain the same at \$2.00

Transfers will increase from .50 to \$1.00, but will now allow unlimited travel within the system for two hours (as opposed to old policy which required that you switch to another line and not use them for continuation on a route or for return trip)

Day Pass price remains the same at \$6.00

Monthly Pass price will increase from \$62 to \$70

Two products will be discontinued: RIPTIKs and the 15-Ride Pass. They will be replaced by a new 10-Ride ticket that will cost \$20 and include transfers (but will have to ask for the transfer when you first board the bus).

For Passengers who Currently Pay No Fare under the Pass Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities:

These changes will go into effect July 1, 2016

The Board voted that persons who currently pay no fare because they are senior citizens or have a disability and earn no more than 200-percent of poverty level will pay a fare of up to 50-cents (or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of full fare). Transfers will cost up to 25-cents. Before these changes go into effect, RIPTA staff will report back to the Board of Directors regarding the progress of talks with other state agencies that might be of assistance.

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## **RIPTA'S WINTER SERVICE CHANGES TO TAKE EFFECT SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016**

RIPTA will implement winter service changes effective Saturday, January 16, 2016. RIPTA makes regular service adjustments three times a year in response to seasonal changes and/or passenger use.

[Click here](#) to see if your route is affected.

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## WINTER WEATHER PREPARATION

During periods of heavy snow and ice, buses, like personal vehicles, will sometimes fall behind schedule, but rest assured operators will be working to reach your stop as soon as possible. Plan extra time for your commute. Take an earlier trip. Buses

not only get slowed down by the snow, but also by traffic, and roads narrowed by snow can add to traffic jams – particularly on city streets. Travel also takes longer when we are forced to implement detours because roads are not passable for our buses. Allowing for extra time is the best way to get around during winter weather travel.

Passengers are always advised to use extreme caution at bus stops due to decreased visibility and slippery conditions.

Passengers are strongly advised to monitor news reports, check [www.RIPTA.com](http://www.RIPTA.com) and RIPTA's social media outlets (Facebook @RideRIPTA, Twitter @RIPTA\_RI) for service advisory updates. RIPTA urges passengers to sign up for electronic News Updates at <http://www.ripta.com/detours-news>; RIPTA will e-mail system disruption notices to passengers on this distribution list.

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## WIN THE FAMILY VACATION OF A LIFETIME!

Attention New England NuRide members - you have a chance to win a Winter Vacation for Family of Four to Smugglers' Notch Vermont! Enter for your chance to win a spectacular

Winter Vacation package for a family of four from Smugglers' Notch Vermont which includes 3-days/3-nights lodging, lift tickets, group ski or snowboard lessons, indoor pool, and unlimited FunZone access! How? Simply cash in your NuRide points for a virtual raffle ticket!

The prize is worth \$2,295 and one winner will be drawn on Monday, January 11 at 9am.

Haven't signed up yet? What are you waiting for?!  
Get FREE rewards with NuRide - the nation's largest commuter rewards program!

This program rewards individuals who take greener trips, which include walking, biking, telecommuting, carpooling, vanpooling, or taking public transportation. It's completely free and easy to do! Log on now to [www.NuRide.com](http://www.NuRide.com) to get started. Get points for going green and then cash in your points for really cool rewards like a Free Appetizer with Entrée at P.F. Chang's Providence Place!

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**GET REWARDS FOR  
TODAY'S BUS RIDE!**

**Join for FREE at [NuRide.com](http://NuRide.com)**



## RIPTA SCHEDULES 2016 COMMUNITY SITE VISITS FOR BUS PASS PROGRAM FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

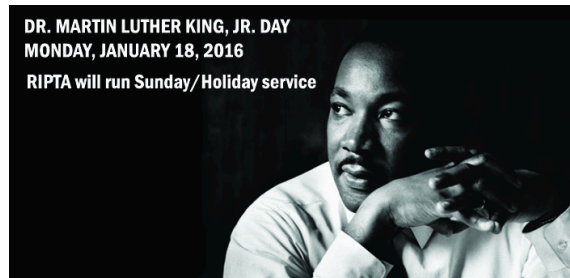
Every week, RIPTA's Photo

Identification staff travel to communities throughout the state to provide bus passes to qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities, who are unable to get to our office in downtown Providence. The Photo ID Office, which is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to Noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, will be closed all day every Friday to provide photo identification "road trip" services around the state.

[Click here](#) for the 2016 Community Site Visit Schedule for the Bus Pass Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities.

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## RIPTA TO RUN HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016



RIPTA will operate all fixed-route services on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Monday, January 18, 2016 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

[Click here](#) for details.

## RIPTA IN THE COMMUNITY

RIPTA was happy to lead and be part of community efforts to help families and children this holiday season. We joined Toys for Tots drives and also sponsored a Teddy Bear Toss at a PC Friars Hockey Game. The end result was dozens of fuzzy bears and boxes of gifts for children at Providence's West End Community Center. Founded in 1975, the center serves several neighborhoods on the city's west side and offers learning programs and other activities for the youth in the area. It was our pleasure to help put presents under their Christmas tree!



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