



## COMING SOON: A WAVE OF TECHNOLOGY

Starting this month, passengers are going to start seeing teal, rectangular boxes mounted near the dashboards of our buses, and may wonder, “What’s that?”

The “boxes,” which have a screen that promises “Coming Soon,” are new card readers - called validators – that are going to make boarding the bus easier and faster for our customers. These validators will be able to read smart cards, scan digital codes on phone screens, and more. This new technology will allow us to offer

passengers a variety of fare products that they can just “tap and go” with when they board the bus. Our current fare boxes will still be in place for cash and existing fare products.



It’s all part of our ongoing work to upgrade our fare collection system. Last year RIPTA announced that the contract for the project had been awarded to INIT, Innovations In Transportation, Inc. of Virginia. The project will give passengers new ways to pay for bus fares, including online accounts, reusable smart cards,

mobile apps and the option of purchasing reloadable fare cards at hundreds of retail locations throughout the state.

There's more work to be done, so stay tuned!



## A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE!

We were at Quonset Business Park recently for the launch of the road-testing phase of the state's first autonomous vehicles. The project, headed by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT),

will bring 12-passenger, electric, autonomous vehicles to the Olneyville section of Providence this spring. The "Little Roady" shuttles will travel on low-speed roads along a five-mile route along the Woonasquatucket River corridor. Working with RIDOT, we will get a first-hand look at this new and still-evolving technology, while also exploring how small autonomous vehicles might augment public transportation in the future.

## INTERESTED IN PAYING ONLY \$2.50 PER DAY FOR PARKING DOWNTOWN?

Consider HOV parking at Providence Place Mall! What is HOV? It's an acronym for High Occupancy Vehicle(s). HOV generally describes any vehicle carrying two or more persons on a single journey such as carpools and vanpools.



Carpools and vanpools registered in RIPTA's Commuter Resource RI (CRR) HOV Parking Program are eligible for a discounted parking rate at Providence Place Mall.

Receive free assistance in forming a carpool or vanpool convenient to your home and office! It just takes as few as two to be a carpool. We'll even help you find pool-mates!

Call 401-784-9575 today or email [commuter@ripta.com](mailto:commuter@ripta.com).

CRRI is the official registry for the HOV carpooling spaces at Providence Place. The HOV Parking Program, which launched in 2002, is available to registered carpoolers Monday through Friday 6am to 6pm.

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## SERVICE ALERTS

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - PAWTUCKET

RIPTA will detour Routes 1, 71, 72, 75, 76, 78, and the R-Line on Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 9:00am to 2:00pm to accommodate the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Roosevelt Avenue will be closed during this time.

[Click here](#) for details.



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - PROVIDENCE

RIPTA will detour Routes 50, 56 and 57 in Providence on Saturday, March 9, 2019 to accommodate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

[Click here](#) for details.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - NEWPORT

RIPTA will detour Routes 60, 63 and 67 in Newport on Saturday, March 16, 2019 to accommodate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

[Click here](#) for details.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - WEST WARWICK

RIPTA will detour Route 13 on Sunday, March 17, 2019 from 11:30am to 4:00pm to accommodate the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

[Click here](#) for details.



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