



FREE Hop-On Hop-Off Service Returns to Newport

This summer passengers can ride Route 67 and the new Route 68 FOR FREE! Funded by [Discover Newport](#) and the [Episcopal Diocese of](#)

[Rhode Island](#), passengers can hop-on and hop-off these two routes through October 31, 2023 at no charge.



Green and gold RIPTA Trolley at Newport Transportation Center

The service offers transportation around Newport to destinations including Salve Regina University, the Cliff Walk, museums, and beaches. Visit [RIPTA.com/Newport](https://www.ripta.com/Newport) for details.

Summer Service Changes

RIPTA will implement summer service changes effective Saturday, June 17, 2023. RIPTA makes regular service adjustments three times a year in response to seasonal changes and/or passenger use.

These annual changes include the start of selected summer services and changes to trip times.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



Weekend Express Beach Bus Is Back

South County Beach Express Buses serving Scarborough, Roger Wheeler and Galilee State Beaches will operate from the communities of Woonsocket, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence (Kennedy Plaza), North Providence and Cranston. Service will operate on weekends and holidays beginning Saturday, June 17 through Sunday, August 20, 2023. [Click here](#) for details.



Bus Stop Improvements Underway at CCRI Warwick

RIPTA is partnering with the [Community College of Rhode Island](#) to improve bus stops at its flagship Knight Campus located in Warwick.

The improvements include four bus stops, each sized to fit 40-foot buses. Each bus stop shall have a well-proportioned shelter and passenger amenities. Last Friday, RIPTA temporarily relocated the bus stop at the CCRI Knight campus to accommodate the construction, which will continue through August.

Click here to learn more about the project.



Bike to Work Month Closing Party

Big thank you to all the commuters who swapped their car ride for a ride on two wheels during Bike to Work Month! Our



transit ambassadors enjoyed meeting you at our weekly pop-up events. **Together, you biked 4,757 miles - that's 1,200 reduced car trips and a 4,100 lb. reduction in carbon emissions!**

Congratulations to our Let's Ride RI Bike Challenge winners:

- * Ken Zerkel
- * Sarah Brown
- * Jared Ruehr
- * Jennifer Soares

But, wait – there's more! **Pedal on over to the Black Duck Tavern this Friday, June 2 from 4pm to 7pm for the Let's Ride RI closing party.** Black Duck Tavern is located along the East Bay Bike Path at the base of the George Washington Bridge at 31 Warren Avenue in East Providence.

Stop by on your bike, enter to win prizes and enjoy one complimentary drink to wrap up Bike to Work Month.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!

NBX Bikes

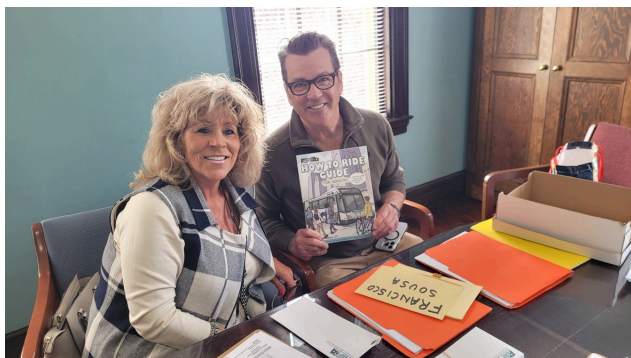
- Trek Bicycle Providence
- Manhattan Portage
- Café La France
- Clean Energy Bars
- Narragansett Brewery
- Black Duck Tavern
- Cleverhood
- Friendly Bicycle

Ride Free Central Falls Pilot Expansion



We are happy to announce that we've extended our year-long **Ride Free Central Falls** pilot program through August 1, 2023. Even better news? We've expanded it to include the bus stops at the new Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center!

The pilot, which launched in March 2022, is testing the effectiveness of using geofencing technology to promote the use of public transportation. [Click here](#) to learn more.



RIPTA Photo ID Bus Pass Road Trips

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will 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 Providence. [Commuter Resource RI](#) staff also provides travel training.

RIPTA staff will process Photo ID bus passes at the following locations:

FOSTER

Senior & Caregiver Resource Fair
 Thursday, June 8 • 4pm-6pm
 Captain Isaac Paine Elementary School
 160 Foster Center Road

PROVIDENCE

Wednesday, June 14 • 10am-12pm
 Fox Point Manor
 575 Wickenden Street

Photo ID bus passes cost \$10 and are valid for two years.

For information on how to qualify for RIPTA's Bus Pass Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities, customers can call (401) 784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://www.ripta.com/ReducedFare).

Employee Spotlight

Jesus Castro, RIdE Paratransit Driver

When Jesus Castro, a driver in our RIdE paratransit division for the past 10 years, trains newer drivers there are always two words he stresses: respect and compassion. They are the hallmark of the service he provides passengers who use our service for people who have disabilities that prevent them from using our fixed-route buses.



Jesus Castro stands in front of RIPTA Flex van

“You always have to have compassion for people, but you also have to have respect,” he says. “You ask someone if they need assistance with something like boarding – you don’t assume it. Respect is important and so is compassion.”

Castro came to RIPTA after working various jobs in Rhode Island, including working for a company that manufactures ink and a short stint as a school bus driver. Like all new operators at RIPTA he started in paratransit, but unlike some who are anxious to move over to the bigger buses on fixed-route, he says, that once he got to know his RIde passengers, he decided that this is where he wants to stay.

“You can make more driving for fixed-route, but this is for me,” Castro says. “For me, it’s about how much you are really helping people. Passengers are always saying thank you and that means so much – some people make you feel like you are part of the family.”

Castro grew up in the Dominican Republic and came to Rhode Island in his thirties. He says he is looking forward to continuing his work in the RIde division and enjoys the advancements he has seen in transit.

“When I started, I carried a map book,” he says with a smile. “Now it’s all GPS and the directions for our trips are in the computer for us. We have it all onboard.” He also enjoys his colleagues, and as the Union Representative for the RIde drivers, says he likes helping people find the best way to work together.

When not working, he says his free time is happily devoted to his 3 ½ year-old granddaughter.

“I love what I do, I love it,” he says of driving for RIde. “The service we provide gives people freedom. This is where I am supposed to be, and I want my passengers to know I’m right here when they need me.”

Ready to Drive Your Career Forward?

RIPTA is hiring and we have **NEW INCREASED WAGES** for drivers and CDL Trainees!

Do you want career growth with an established organization where you can retire with a pension and benefits?

Attend the **RIPTA Career Fair** on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 from 10am to 2pm** at 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- **Mechanic - Increased Wage!**

- Paratransit Operator
- Paratransit CDL Trainee

RIPTA Offers:

- Competitive Wages
- Pension Plan
- Health Benefits
- 457 Deferred Comp
- Dental Coverage
- Optional Life Insurance
- Vision Coverage
- Paid Vacation and Personal Time
- Flexible Spending Account
- Paid Sick Time
- Uniform Allowance

Visit [RIPTA.com/careers](https://ripta.com/careers) for more information.



DETOURS

Gaspee Days Parade: Saturday, June 10

RIPTA will detour Route 4 from the first trip of the day until 2pm.

PrideFest Parade: Saturday, June 17

RIPTA will detour Routes 30, 35, 60 and 78 from 7pm to 10pm.

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://ripta.com/alerts) for details.



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