



May 12, 2025 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 2:02 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.

Maureen Maignet motioned to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 Coordinating Council meeting with a wording change suggested by Benny Bergantino. Lorna Oinonen seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Brian Siegel, Foursquare ITP, then presented on RIPTA's operational efficiency study which aims to give insight into changing travel patterns, strengthen strategies for improving service reliability, and benchmark RIPTA against peer agencies. The study will quantify the performance of each bus route using a variety of factors including service area coverage and environmental impacts. It will also incorporate a qualitative assessment, gathering input from riders, operations staff, and others who interact with the system. Four hybrid meetings are scheduled this week, and the draft report should be available in late May. Other project tasks will continue through August.

RIPTA project updates followed:

- Ride Anywhere pilot study: The Nelson\Nygaard consulting team is completing its evaluation of RIPTA's statewide paratransit pilot program. They are refining cost estimates and demand projections, and RIPTA will submit a final report to the General Assembly later this month.
- Flex on Demand pilot program: RIPTA continues to offer Flex on Demand service in Flex Zone 203—URI/Narragansett/South Kingstown, allowing passengers to use a smartphone app to request shared rides between locations within the zone.



- Travel training network launch plans: RIPTA is developing materials to encourage people with disabilities and older adults to ride fixed route buses independently. The training modules, videos, and print materials will be shared with partner organizations later this spring.

Project updates from other agencies and organizations followed:

- Darlene Reza Rossi announced that AARP RI is planning a program on walkability, biking, and mobility in October.
- Peter Joly described a new guidebook produced by the RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals on available services and supports. BHDDH also wants to help providers with travel training.
- AAA Northeast is hosting the Older and Wiser Driver Summit tomorrow.
- The RI Division of Statewide Planning is updating the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and will schedule hearings in August. Public meetings are scheduled in June to get input on the draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This project involves a limited update, and it should be approved by the end of the year.

During a discussion, Darlene asked about the status of RIPTA's Metro Connector Study. Joelle agreed to share an update by email when it's available.

The next Coordinating Council meeting is scheduled on July 14, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.



Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council
May 12, 2025 Attendance List (in person and Teams)

Name	Organization
Benny Bergantino	RI Division of Statewide Planning
Jean Bousquet	RI Office of Rehabilitation Services
Jacques Dextrateur	RI Office of Veterans Services
Caroline Dillon	The Village Common of RI
Ishaa Gadkari	Rhode Island Department of Health
Zachary Gauthier	Disability advocate
Peter Joly	RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
Joelle Kanter	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Maureen Maigret	Senior Agenda Coalition of RI
Estephany Matrille	RI Association of Community Action Agencies
Lorna Oinonen	AARP RI
Darlene Reza Rossi	AARP RI
Bob Robillard	Coventry Human Services and RI Senior Center Directors Association
Brian Siegel	Foursquare ITP
Holly Snyder	AARP RI