



WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING

Week Without Driving logo.

It's Not Too Late to Join the Week Without Driving Challenge!

The nationwide Week Without Driving challenge runs now through Sunday, October 5—and it's not too late to participate! This initiative encourages people to give up driving for a week, or as much as possible, to experience both the benefits and the barriers of living without a car.

Participants are encouraged to use public transit, bike, walk, roll, or carpool as alternative modes of travel. The goal is to raise awareness of the challenges faced by individuals who do not have access to a car and to highlight the importance of creating more accessible, sustainable transportation options.

Even if you are unable to fully participate in the challenge, your perspective and experiences are an important part of this national conversation.

To learn more or sign up, visit weekwithoutdriving.org.



A RIPTA employee holding a clipboard poses in front of a bus.

Bus Buddy: Your Personal Guide to Public Transit

RIPTA is making it easier than ever to learn how to ride the bus with the new **Bus Buddy Program**. This free service pairs first-time or returning riders with a friendly RIPTA staff member who will ride along and provide step-by-step guidance.

Bus Buddies can help with planning a trip, finding the right stop, paying the fare, boarding, making transfers, and more—all in a relaxed, one-on-one setting designed to build confidence.

“The more comfortable people feel using the system, the more likely they are to choose RIPTA as part of their daily routine, which will help grow ridership and strengthen public transit in Rhode Island,” said **RIPTA CEO Christopher Durand**.

The program is open to anyone—especially new riders, older adults, students, and individuals with disabilities. Riders are responsible for paying their own fare.

Visit [RIPTA.com/BusBuddy](https://www.ripta.com/BusBuddy) to learn more.



The bus and bike only lane at the Pawtucket Transit Emphasis Corridor.

Improving the Rider Experience in Pawtucket

As part of RIPTA's ongoing commitment to improving the passenger experience, and guided by the state's [Transit Master Plan](#), upgrades are coming to the Pawtucket Transit Emphasis Corridor (TEC). The TEC, which runs between Downtown Pawtucket and the new Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center, was completed in 2023 with dedicated bus and bicycle lanes, new bus stop islands, modified curbing, and updated pavement markings.

Building on that progress, RIPTA has identified opportunities to further improve safety and accessibility at four bus stop locations along the corridor. This next phase of work will focus on protecting signage, reducing wear, and creating a safer environment for both riders and motorists. To enhance comfort and convenience, RIPTA will replace the existing bus shelters with new Tolar shelters and upgraded passenger amenities, including benches, bike racks, trash cans, and solar lighting. **Construction is scheduled to start on Monday, October 6, 2025, and will last 3-4 weeks. During this time, three bus stops on Exchange Street and one bus stop on Goff Avenue will be temporarily relocated.**

[Click here](#) for a map of the temporary bus stops during construction.



RIPTA Rider of the Week, Marisa.

RIPTA Rider of the Week

Marisa rides Route 65x to downtown Providence where she works as an Impact Manager for [City Year](#), an educational non-profit that provides academic and interpersonal mentorship to students across Rhode Island.

After riding the bus for a month while her car was in the shop, Marisa came to enjoy her bus commute. She describes it as less stressful than sitting in a traffic jam and says it gives her more time to enjoy her favorite books.

Her tip for first-time riders? Don't be intimidated on your first ride. From the bus drivers to the passengers, everyone Marisa has met aboard the bus is friendly and more than willing to help her get to her destination.

RIPTA's new Rider of the Week series aims to highlight real Rhode Islanders who use public transit not only to commute to work but also to travel to school, medical appointments, grocery stores, religious services, and recreational activities. With this series, we hope to share their authentic stories and inspire others along the way who may be reconsidering traveling by car.

Want to be featured? Email marketing@RIPTA.com!



The new Model 1 Ride Paratransit van with doors open and wheelchair ramp extended.

We're Upgrading Your Ride Paratransit Experience!

Exciting improvements are rolling out for RIPTA's Ride paratransit service for riders who have disabilities! **CEO Christopher Durand** recently [toured a new Frontrunner van](#), built by Model 1 Commercial Vehicles, that will soon become part of our upgraded fleet.

What makes these vans stand out?

- **Safer boarding** thanks to a low-slope ramp and flat entryway
- **Improved wheelchair lift** with gas springs, making operation easier for drivers
- **Kneeling capability**, just like our fixed-route buses
- **Spacious, modern interior** for a more comfortable ride

In April 2025, RIPTA ordered twenty-five of these Model 1 Dodge Promaster vans for its paratransit and Flex fleet. The first vehicle arrived last month and is being evaluated before the remainder of the order is completed. Building on this investment, the RIPTA Board of Directors has now approved the purchase of **25 more vans**—bringing the total to 50 vehicles expected by Summer 2026.

These new vans will replace aging vehicles purchased between 2015 and 2019 while also expanding our fleet. This growth will help us keep pace with rising demand for the [Ride Anywhere](#) program and reduce reliance on outsourced taxi services.

To learn more about the Ride paratransit program, visit: [RIPTA.com/Ride](https://www.ripta.com/ride).



Woman holding a Wave card in front of a RIPTA bus.

Photo ID Road Trips for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process Reduced Fare applications for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to get to our office in Kennedy Plaza. Staff also provides travel training.

Reduced Fare Photo ID Wave cards cost \$10 and are valid for two years. Replacement cards are \$20. [Click here](#) to view the schedule for upcoming RIPTA Photo ID Road Trips.

RIPTA staff will process Photo ID Wave card applications at the following locations:

- **PAWTUCKET** Thursday, October 2 • 11am-3pm | [Power Health Senior Life Expo](#): The Stadium at Tidewater Landing, 150 Taft Street
- **NARRAGANSETT** Thursday, October 16 • 11am-1pm | Narragansett Senior Center, 53 Mumford Road
- **PAWTUCKET** Thursday, October 23 • 10am-12pm | Leon Mathieu Center, 420 Main Street
- **EAST PROVIDENCE** Thursday, October 30 • 10am-12pm | East Providence Senior Center, 610 Waterman Avenue

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



Rider Alert Graphic.

SERVICE ALERTS

Holiday Service

RIPTA Observes Indigenous Peoples' Day /Columbus Day

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route buses and trolleys on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Monday, October 13, 2025. All RIPTA offices will be closed on the holiday. [Click here](#) for details.

Detours

Gloria Gemma Flames of Hope: Thursday, October 2 – Sunday, October 5

Routes 50, 55, 56 and 57 will be on detour beginning Thursday, October 2 at 7am until 6pm on Sunday, October 6. Gaspee Street will be closed during this time. All trips on these will use Francis Street through to Smith Street instead of travelling on Gaspee Street.

Gloria Gemma 5K: Sunday, October 5

Routes 1, 30, 33, 34, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 72, 78, 92 and the R-Line will be on detour.

Columbus Day Festival on Federal Hill: Friday, October 10 – Monday, October 13

Route 92 will be on detour from 12:30pm on Friday until the last trip on Monday. Atwells Avenue will be closed between John J. Partington Way and Knight Street during this time.

Broadway Street Fair: Saturday, October 11

Routes 60, 63, 67 and 68 will be on detour from 8am to 6pm.

Broadway Columbus Day Parade: Monday, October 13

Routes 60, 63, 67 and 68 will be on detour from 10am to 11am.

Woonsocket Columbus Day Parade: Monday, October 13

Routes 54 and 87 will be on detour from 9am to 11:30am. Service to Walnut Hill will be suspended during this time.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk: Sunday, October 19

Routes 1, 3, 4, 14, 17, 19, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 50, 55, 56, 57, 60, 66, 78, and 92 will be on detour. Bus Stops V, W and Y will be temporarily relocated. Memorial Boulevard will be closed from Steeple Street to South Water Street during this time.

Monster Dash 5K: Sunday, October 26

Routes 1, 33, 34, 35, 60 and 78 will be on detour from 8:30am to 11:30am. The East Side Tunnel will be closed during this time.

Visit [RIPTA.com/alerts](https://www.ripta.com/alerts) for details on upcoming detours.