

## ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RIPTA Transportation Conference Room  
705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02907  
Thursday, August 1, 2019

**Attendees:** Benny Bergantino, Rui Cabral (Chair), John Carvalho, Monica Dzialo, Deanne Gagne, Julia Gold, Rhonda O'Donnell, Grace Pires, Heidi Showstead, Angie Stabile, Lisa Stamp, and Mark Susa.

**RIPTA Staff in attendance:** Joelle Kanter, Greg Nordin.

**Media:** Tim Faulkner, ecoRI

### I. Call to Order

Chairman Rui Cabral called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

Angie Stabile motioned to accept the June 6, 2019 meeting minutes, and John Carvalho seconded. All were in favor.

### II. Little Roady autonomous vehicle update

Julia Gold, Chief, Chief, Sustainability and Innovation for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, spoke to the committee about the state's autonomous vehicle pilot project, Little Roady. The free mobility service kicked off in May, covering a 5-mile geo-fenced (pre-programmed) route between the Providence train station and Olneyville Square every day from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM. While the 6-seat shuttles are self-driving capable, they are not fully driverless and always have a fleet attendant.

The tech company that operates the shuttles, May Mobility, is currently prototyping an accessible vehicle in Michigan and Ohio, and plans to start testing it in Rhode Island this fall.

RIDOT staff has gained some early insights about the vehicles' limitations. They are collecting data and seeking public input, and they encourage ATAC members to complete a survey on the [littleroady.com](http://littleroady.com) website.

### III. RIPTA Reports: Key performance indicators

- Monthly Wheelchair Lift Failures: After a long period of no wheelchair lift failures, they increased to 5 in April 2019, 6 in May, and 4 in June.
- Stop Announcement Compliance: Jim Vincent prepared a report from RIPTA's vendor, Professional Security Services. In May, 128 trips were monitored, and 125 were in full compliance. Of the 885 required announcements, 857 were made. 101 operators were monitored altogether. In June, 88 trips were monitored, and 100% were in full

compliance. 646 announcements were required, and all were made. 83 operators were monitored altogether.

- On-time performance: RIPTA will report on on-time performance next month.
- Ride key performance indicators: There are currently 5,086 customers approved to use Ride. Of that total, 1,013 people or 19.9% used the service in the last 90 days. Total ridership was 19,744 in June; 21,619 in May; and 21,299 in April. On time performance was 95.0%.

#### IV. Upcoming Meetings

- Public hearings will be scheduled in September to announce fare policy changes that should make RIPTA's system easier to use.
- Transit Forward RI public workshops will also be scheduled in September. This long range master planning project is mode-neutral and aims to grow the state's transit footprint while making the system more accessible.
- The committee discussed recent RI Governor's Commission on Disabilities public forums and noted that the final one is scheduled on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### V. Ride/RIPTA service feedback

- Angie asked about purchasing transfer passes on the bus. Customers should request a transfer when they board and pay \$3 upfront.
- In discussing the Governor's Commission public forums, committee members noted several RIPTA-related comments including the lack of changing tables in the Kennedy Plaza restrooms.

#### VI. Update on fare validator sounds

RIPTA is getting ready to introduce a new account-based fare system. Staff played several recorded sounds that customers will soon hear when they use new cards (or apps) on buses. The sounds will indicate when a card is accepted and the passenger can ride; a card is accepted, but the driver needs to check a photo ID; a card is denied due to insufficient funds; and a passenger reaches a monthly cap, and all remaining trips that month are free. The farebox will also light up, and corresponding messages will appear on a screen.

RIPTA will distribute thousands of cards to encourage riders to start using them, and staff will help people set up their accounts. In early 2020, the cards should be available in hundreds of retail locations around the state.

Members inquired about the status of incorporating the new fare system into Ride vehicles, and at this stage, RIPTA is still working on a solution.

RIPTA staff also confirmed that cash will continue to be accepted on buses.

#### VII. Other reports

- Deanne Gagne is organizing the Advocates in Action RI self-advocacy conference on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- OSCIL has a lunch & learn workshop scheduled on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 PM about Rhode Island's non-emergency medical transportation system managed by MTM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.