



RIPTA SLEIGHS HUNGER



RIPTA interim CEO Chris Durand helps RIPTA staff unload van filled with donations.

Summer is the hardest time of the year for many individuals and families in Rhode Island. When school's out, some kids face their toughest test because summer also spells the end of free and reduced school meal programs, which often means greater food insecurity. The summer months are equally difficult for many low-income seniors who are often forced to choose between paying bills and purchasing food.



Last month, RIPTA held an agency-wide Christmas in July Food Drive to help alleviate some of this seasonal hardship for Rhode Islanders. **Together, our employees successfully collected 1,000 lbs. of food for the Rhode Island Food Bank.** We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our team in supporting this vital cause.

How You Can Help

You can support the Rhode Island Food Bank by donating non-perishable food items or making an online donation. Your contributions make a significant difference in the lives of those in need. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Together, let's continue to Sleigh Hunger!

Exciting Update: First CDL Test Prep Course Successfully Launched!



RIPTA is thrilled to announce that the first Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Test

Prep Course started on Monday, July 22.

Participants are well on their way to studying in an instructor-led classroom for their CDL permits while getting paid.

Walter Melillo, President/Business Agent, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 618, welcomes the CDL Test Prep Class!

The enthusiasm continues to grow, and it's not too late to join this exciting program. Interested applicants can still apply and take advantage of this incredible opportunity in partnership with the Rhode Island Institute for Labor Studies & Research (ILSR) by [clicking here](#) and filling out an employment application.

Key Features of the CDL Test Prep Course Program:

- **Earn While You Learn:** Participants will receive \$25.33 per hour while studying for their CDL permit test.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** RIPTA and ILSR will work with your schedule to ensure you can balance your studies and personal commitments.
- **No Experience Necessary:** This program is designed for those who are new to the field and looking to start a career in transportation.

Applicants must be 21 years of age with a valid Rhode Island driver's license for at least three years and have a clean background check (BCI). No experience necessary.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to kickstart your career in transportation with RIPTA! Visit [RIPTA.com/careers](https://ripta.com/careers) to view all current job

openings.

\$7.4M Grant Award Will Support Renovation of 102-Year-Old Maintenance Facility

RIPTA has received a \$7.4 million grant to renovate our historic 102-year-old facility at 265 Melrose Street!



(L-R) Walter Melillo, President/Business Agent, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 618; Representative William O'Brien, Chair of the House Finance Subcommittee on Environment and Transportation; Christopher Durand, interim RIPTA Chief Executive Officer; U.S. Senator Jack Reed; and U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse hold oversized check from FTA.

This incredible investment, celebrated with members of Rhode Island's Congressional delegation and local officials, marks a major milestone in our commitment to a state-of-the-art transit future. The renovations will include critical repairs and modernizations, ensuring the building is safe, efficient, and ready to support our Transit Master Plan. Curious to learn more? [Click here.](#)

Fall Service Changes Take Effect August 31

RIPTA will implement fall service changes effective Saturday, August 31. RIPTA makes regular service adjustments three times a year in response to seasonal changes and/or passenger use.

Routes 3, 4, 31, 51, 54, 56, 66, 67, and 95x will be affected.

[Click here](#) for details.

Visit [RIPTA.com](https://ripta.com) for updated schedules.



Mayor's Day in the City

RIPTA is excited to join Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, along with the Department of Senior Services, at this year's Mayor's Day in the City! The event will be held on Saturday, August 17 at the Rhode Island Convention Center from 11AM to 2PM. Stop by the RIPTA table and say hello!

RIPTA's Photo Identification staff will be on site to provide bus passes to qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities with valid documentation. Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program identification cards for qualified people with disabilities and seniors cost \$10.00 (cash only) and are valid for 2 years. For information on how to qualify for RIPTA's Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities, customers can call 784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit [RIPTA.com/ReducedFare](https://ripta.com/ReducedFare).

For more information on Mayor Brett Smiley's Day in the City event, please contact the Department of Senior Services at 401-421-2489.

Let's Keep Rhody Litter-Free!

Join the movement to keep Rhode Island clean!

Rhode Island, the Ocean State, is world-renowned for its natural beauty. Our beaches, parks, and outdoor spaces are part of what makes our state so

beautiful and special, especially when they are litter-free. Let's keep it that way! That's why Governor Dan McKee and First Lady Susan McKee have launched a statewide anti-litter campaign. We're encouraging Rhode Islanders and visitors to help clean up our outdoor spaces, protect our natural heritage, and beautify the Ocean State.



As you walk to your bus stop, take a moment to pick up a piece of litter. Every small action counts, and together, we can make a huge difference. Let's show our pride in Rhody and keep our streets and communities litter-free!

[Click here](#) to take the pledge today!

Skills for Rhode Island – CU4 Reality

RIPTA participated in the annual CU4 Reality financial literacy fair, a fun and interactive learning environment where

students can practice financial management skills. Each student was assigned a career and then created a budget based on their salary. As they visited different vendor tables, they decided how much of their budget to spend on items such as food, clothing, housing, transportation, and insurance.

From monthly payments to insurance, maintenance, and gas, car ownership is expensive. We were happy to share the benefits of public transit to get around Rhode Island, enabling students to keep more money in their pockets!



Interested in having RIPTA table your event? Email marketing@RIPTA.com today!

Employee Spotlight

Julia Evelyn, Long-Range Planner

Julia Evelyn is an ideal fit in her role as long-range transportation planner in RIPTA's Planning

Department. Her analytical, data-driven side complements her people skills, making her the perfect leader for large-scale projects that involve community input, working with other state agencies, and using data to make informed decisions.

After graduating from college in Minnesota, Julia worked for the city of Minneapolis's Sustainability Division, where she collaborated with a community advisory group to recognize constituent needs. This experience piqued her interest in government work. The New York native moved back to the East Coast and found a meaningful position at RIPTA, continuing her sustainability and community outreach work.

Julia manages the **Safe Streets for All** program, which aims to address safety challenges on Rhode Island roads by combining data and community input to create individualized safety recommendations for towns and cities across the state. An excellent listener and eloquent speaker, she coordinates with community groups, town planners, police departments, social service providers, and the public, ensuring their voices are heard. For Julia, talking to the public is one of the most critical pieces of public service work. "The whole point of the government is to serve the constituents," she says. "If you're not asking them what they need or want, what are you doing?"

Julia's favorite part of her role is assembling the pieces of the "bus stop universe." As leader of RIPTA's bus stop inventory project, she conducts field work to catalogue the condition of hundreds of bus stops and shelters across Rhode Island, aiming to improve the passenger experience. The data collected feeds into an online dashboard, which she can combine with additional figures



like ridership data to create maps to answer questions such as where RIPTA should allocate its resources to make the greatest impact for the most people.

Outside of work, Julia enjoys playing in a recreational soccer league, walking her dog, hanging out with friends and family and exploring hiking trails around Rhode Island. With the scope and scale of RIPTA's projects, we are so grateful to have such a collaborative, methodical individual helping to guide our path forward.

RIPTA Photo ID Bus Pass Road Trips

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

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

WEST WARWICK

Thursday, August 8 • 10 AM - 12 PM
West Warwick Senior Center
145 Washington Street

PAWTUCKET

Thursday, August 15 • 10 AM - 12 PM
Leon Mathieu Senior Center
420 Main Street

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

[Click here](#) to view upcoming RIPTA Photo ID Road Trips.

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://ripta.com/ReducedFare).



SERVICE ALERTS

HOLIDAY SERVICE

RIPTA Observes Labor Day

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day. All RIPTA offices will be closed on the holiday, except for the Customer Service Kiosk in the Newport Transportation Center. [Click here](#) for details.

DETOURS

East Side Tunnel Closure: Now through October 2024

Routes 1, 32, 33, 34, 40 and 61x are on detour through mid-October.

West River Street Bridge Detour: Now through November 2024

Route 58 is on detour through November due to the West River Street Bridge Replacement Project.

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



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