



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

RIPTA wishes you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season. May you be surrounded by loved ones and find time for sharing treasured moments together. Thank you for supporting RIPTA. We look forward to your continued support in 2023.



## RIPTA TO RUN HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022 AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

RIPTA will operate all regular fixed-route bus service on a Sunday/Holiday schedule on Sunday, December 25, 2022 in observance of Christmas Day and Sunday, January 1, 2023 in observance of New Year's Day. RIPTA offices will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All RIPTA Offices, except for the Customer Service Call Center, will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. Also, the Flex Service reservation line (1-877-906-FLEX) and the Ride reservation line (461-9760) will not be staffed on either holiday.

[Click here](#) for details.

## RIPTA HONORS ROSA PARKS

Thursday, December 1st - the date Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat because of her skin color - is Rosa Parks Human Rights Day.



RIPTA salutes her by showcasing beautiful art e-signage commemorating her courage on buses as a reminder of who she was and what she represents.

*Rosa Parks on a Montgomery bus on December 21, 1956, the day Montgomery's public transportation system was legally integrated*

[Click here](#) to read more about the mother of the modern day civil rights movement in America.

## DOCUMENTARY SHOWS HOW TRANSIT SHAPED EDGEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD



History and transit aficionados alike can now view an independent documentary that shows how the location of a trolley line at the turn of the century created the gracious Edgewood neighborhood in Cranston. The story is told in an independent film, called *END OF THE LINE: The Tracks That Shaped Our RI Streetcar Suburb*, [featured here](#). RIPTA is not affiliated with the film that was created by filmmaker and anthropologist David A. Goldenberg.

“This documentary provides an insightful and engaging look at how trolleys and streetcars shaped the growth of the Edgewood neighborhood and is a reminder that public transportation still plays a key role in where people choose to live and where businesses can flourish in our State,” said Scott Avedisian, RIPTA’s Chief Executive Officer. “It also contains many entertaining details of life in Rhode Island at the turn of the century.”

Goldenberg, who lives in Edgewood along the old trolley line, said the project was a labor of love that occurred by happenstance. He has made dozens of documentaries but wasn’t necessarily looking for a new project when he spied the rails in the potholes that caused traffic to rattle and shake when it passed his home.

“Clearly, electrified mass transit transformed this area,” said Barbara Rubine, President of the [Edgewood Waterfront Protection Association](#). “What was a mix of farms and resort destinations became a vibrant upper middle-class commuter community.”



*Joelle Kanter, RIPTA Planner; Scott Avedisian, RIPTA CEO; Steve Fiorentini, RIPTA Customer Service, and Dale J. Venturini, RIHA President*

## RIPTA WINS HOSPITALITY HERO AWARD

Not all heroes wear capes. Some help remove transportation barriers for working Rhode Islanders.

At its Annual Meeting, the [Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

honored individuals and businesses that have made a difference in the industry with Hospitality Hero Awards.

RIPTA is proud to be recognized as a “Hospitality Hero” by the PWCVB for its Pineapple Pass Program. RIPTA employees, from Planning, Finance, and Customer Service, worked with the RI Department of Labor & Training and the RI Hospitality Association (RIHA) to launch a successful Pineapple Pass program that allows RIHA members to provide bus passes to restaurant and hotel employees. Now in its second year, the program has provided transportation to more than 500 employees.

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## READY TO DRIVE YOUR CAREER FORWARD?

### RIPTA is hiring!

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

Attend the **RIPTA Career Fair on Friday, December 9, 2022 from 10am to 1pm** at 705 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- Mechanic
- Utility Worker
- 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



## RHODE ISLAND PARTNERS PREPARING TO IMPLEMENT VEHICLE SHARING PILOT PROJECT

The [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center \(NADTC\)](#) recently awarded [Age-Friendly Rhode Island](#) with

a \$70,000 grant for a pilot project planned in partnership with RIPTA and [Looking Upwards](#), a nonprofit agency that offers a wide array of services to adults with developmental disabilities and children and youth with special healthcare needs. Nine agencies around the country, including Age-Friendly Rhode Island, received planning grants in 2021, and seven of those agencies are now slated to receive funds for implementation, totaling \$490,000. The Rhode Island pilot will involve developing a vehicle sharing program utilizing one of Looking Upwards' vans to serve older adults, people with disabilities, and marginalized groups in Newport County who have unmet transportation needs. The pilot is expected to launch in early 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Joelle Kanter, Planner, Human Services Transportation

Joelle Kanter started her career over two decades ago working with business improvement districts in New Jersey, before moving to Rhode Island in 2005 to work at The Providence Foundation in partnership with the Providence Downtown Improvement District. After collaborating with RIPTA on several projects, she finally joined our transit team in the RIPTA’s Planning Department, focusing on Human Services Transportation Planning.



Today, Joelle is responsible for managing grant programs, plans, and meetings related to individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. Joelle closely works with [Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee \(ATAC\)](#) members, learning about their experiences using both paratransit and fixed-route services so that RIPTA can help serve them better. She also provides leadership for the statewide Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council, whose vision is accessible, coordinated statewide mobility for all Rhode Islanders.

“After working for small organizations for years, it’s been fun to work at a large agency with so many moving parts. I love collaborating with people in other departments on projects that really matter,” said Joelle. “My colleagues at RIPTA are bright and motivated, and we have a unique opportunity to do impactful work across the state.”

## RIPTA IN THE COMMUNITY

### RIPTA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL STUFF A BUS FOOD DRIVE

The final numbers are in, and we are happy to announce that this year with your support, we collected an estimated 754



pounds of food for We Share Hope. THANK YOU for making the 9th Annual Stuff A Bus Food Drive a huge success! [We Share Hope](#) allocates donated food and nonfood items to 39 communities throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. RIPTA would also like to thank Ocean State Job Lot, iHeartMedia and Commute with Enterprise for being great community partners and helping those in need.

“This year’s Stuff A Bus Food Drive was an incredible expression of thoughtfulness and generosity from our community,” said Scott Avedisian, RIPTA CEO. “I want to thank everyone involved for their efforts on another successful food drive.”



*Speaker of the House Shekarchi serves lunch to paratransit drivers Catherine and Disleysi who transported people to the luncheon at Iggy's.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE IN NEED

On Thanksgiving Day, RIPTA teamed up with Iggy's RI and Bishop Hendricken High School to provide transportation to a free Thanksgiving dinner. Also participating in the luncheon was Speaker of the House Shekarchi, Mayor Frank Picozzi, and State Representative Joseph Solomon Jr.

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### DOWNTOWN JINGLE 5K DETOUR: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Routes 1, 14, 17, 19, 33, 34, 35, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 66, 72, 78, 92 and the R-Line will be detoured from approximately 9:15 am to 11:15 am. All RIPTA bus lines are to expect minor delays around Kennedy Plaza during this time. Details [here](#).



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