

## **October 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes for the Rhode Island Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council**

The meeting was held at RIPTA, 705 Elmwood Avenue, and called to order at 1:05 PM. Attendees of the meeting are listed on the attendance sheet attached to these minutes.

Sarah Ingle of RIPTA made introductory remarks. The minutes of the June 11, 2018 Coordinating Council meeting will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Greg Nordin of RIPTA presented an overview of the draft report to the General Assembly, including summaries of the legislative mandate establishing the Council, the work conducted by the Council and its working groups, and the Council's recommendations. The proposed Council recommendations to the General Assembly:

- Provide robust dedicated funding for the bus pass program of approximately the equivalent of the current gas tax penny, rather than rely on efficiencies, narrowed program parameters, fare increases, or service reductions
- Consider utilizing lottery or gambling revenue, ride-sharing tax revenue, or parking lot tax revenue to support the bus pass program
- Take advantage of new fare collection technology to facilitate cost-sharing between public and/or private agencies supporting transportation assistance to low-income and disadvantaged populations
- Develop a transportation services clearinghouse and one-call/one-click trip planning and scheduling resource
- Establish a staffed and budgeted statewide mobility management/community transportation program to guide ongoing coordination

Council members provided feedback regarding these proposed recommendations, including the following requests:

- Clearly state that Medicaid funding is not available in sufficient quantities to fund the bus pass program

- State that EOHHS and RIPTA can explore possibilities for reducing duplication of effort in serving dually-qualified individuals (rather than pursuing efficiencies, which implies waste and an existing overabundance of resources)
- State that distributing RIPTA's share of the existing gas tax penny directly to RIPTA (rather than passing through DHS) could be beneficial
- Focus on identifying revenue sources that can also support increased transit ridership
- Seek enhanced funding for transit services overall, not only the bus pass program
- Reconsider technology recommendation, as this may be misinterpreted as a funding solution rather than a tool; simply enabling cost-sharing does not mean that new financial resources are available

The presentation closed with a discussion regarding continuing bi-monthly Council meetings throughout 2019, with continued RIPTA-EOHHS coordination and potential focus on grant opportunities, health care partnerships, regional coordination, rural and lifeline service, and municipal-level partnerships assisting seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Attachment: Attendance List

**Human Services Transportation Coordinating Council  
October 16, 2018 Attendance List**

<b>Council Members/Designees</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Amy Pettine	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Charles Fogarty	Division of Elderly Affairs	Meghan Connelly, designee
Christopher Durand	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Don Rhodes	RIPTA Riders Alliance	Yes
Eric Beane	Executive Office of Health & Human Services	Dacia Read, designee
Kasim Yarn	Office of Veterans Affairs	Yes
Maureen Maigret	Long Term Care Coordinating Council	Yes
Rebecca Boss	BHDDH	Thomas Martin, designee
Rui Cabral	RIPTA Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee	Yes
<b>Other Invitees</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Blair Lynch	Department of Human Services	Yes
Bob Marshall	RI Developmental Disabilities Council	Yes
Brooks Almonte	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Gregory Nordin	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Laurie Brayton	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Ray Gagne	RI Organizing Project	Yes
Sarah Ingle	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority	Yes
Shanna Vecchio-Schubert	Senate Fiscal Office	Yes