



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Update to the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council
May 1, 2024

R-Line Electrification

Overview

- 14 zero-emission battery-electric New Flyer buses
- Fleet entered revenue service January 16, 2024
- Vehicles delivered between June 2022 and February 2024.
 - Six-month delay due to supply chain and battery system issues
- Positive feedback from riders and operators

Performance to date – vehicles

- Phasing fleet into service. Currently averaging nine buses pulling out each morning. Average daily mileage has increased steadily since January, but not all buses are yet completing full service blocks every time.



R-Line Electrification

Performance to date – charging system

- Four overhead pantograph chargers at R-Line southern terminus. Minor issues with chargers during first three months including software glitches and ongoing operator training



Aquidneck Island Electrification

- \$22.37M RAISE grant awarded in 2022. Working toward execution of PGA (Paper Grant Agreement), then will initiate design and engineering
- Proceeding with vehicle and infrastructure analyses to determine electric bus requirements for Aquidneck Island, such as in-line vs. depot charging.
- Office of Energy Resources has provided RIPTA funding from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds to develop and implement resiliency components as part of project. Will explore potential options as overall project moves forward.
- Anticipated completion Fall 2027



Bus Stop Improvement Program



Mode shift and growing RIPTA ridership

- Encouraging transit ridership by providing attractive, accessible passenger facilities
- RIPTA recently executed a transit shelter and passenger amenity contract with Tolar Manufacturing Company – \$1M annual budget
- DEM has incorporated funding for these efforts into CPRG grant request (“new or expanded transit infrastructure projects to facilitate public transit”)
- RIDOT has allocated \$1.5M over 2 years in Carbon Reduction Plan
- New dedicated Bus Stop Project Manager
- Actively pursuing partnership opportunities
- Seeking \$19.5M in RAISE grant funds to accelerate program of work

Pending Federal Grant Requests

| Program | Purpose | Amount Requested |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (EPA) | Bus Stop Improvements and Fare Subsidies as outlined in PCAP. RIPTA would be subgrantee to DEM. | \$600,000 |
| Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) (DOT) | Bus Stop Improvements at top 100 locations, predominantly in areas of persistent poverty & have been disadvantaged historically. | \$19,521,678 |
| Low/No Emission Vehicle Grant (FTA) | Purchase 25 new hybrid-electric buses. | \$23,000,000 |
| Bus & Bus Facilities Grant (FTA) | State of good repair improvements to Elmwood campus facilities. | \$7,407,963 |
| Congestion Relief (FHWA) | Resources toward enhanced transit services, fare subsidies, traveler information systems, and mobility hub planning. | \$7,520,000 |
| Total | | \$58,049,641 |

Transit Master Plan Update

- Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning has begun updating RI's Long-Range Transportation Plan to 2050 horizon year
- In conjunction with this, the Transit Master Plan will be updated, including post-COVID updates to:
 - Transit Market Demand Analysis
 - Plan Ridership and Cost Projections
 - Funding Strategies Assessment
 - Implementation Benefits Assessment
- Updated LRTP must be adopted by December 2025
- Increased collaboration between DEM, RIDOT, DSP, and RIPTA on transportation emissions measurement and modeling – in support of LRTP/TMP update as well as 2025 GHG Reduction Plan update



High-Capacity Transit Alternatives Analysis

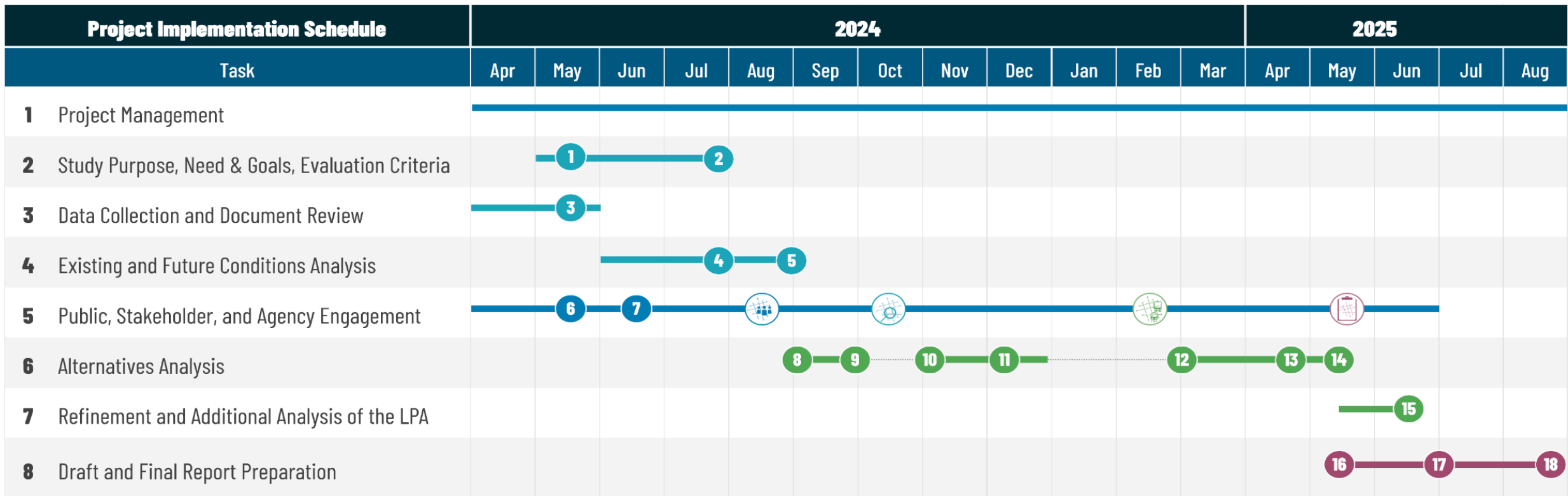
Mode shift and growing RIPTA ridership

- High-capacity transit is a major initiative of *Transit Forward RI 2040* master plan
- Identified as a Project of Regional Significance in RI's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Metro Providence focus, studying two corridors
 - Central Falls to CCRI-Warwick
 - Downtown Providence to TF Green Airport
- Alternatives analysis to determine
 - Service mode: Bus Rapid Transit and/or Light Rail
 - Route alignments and termini
 - Station locations
- Project launched on April 24, 2024



High-Capacity Transit Alternatives Analysis

Timeline:



Thank You!

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