



RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

To: Terry Gray, Director, Department of Environmental Management
From: Christopher Durand, CEO 
Date: May 8, 2026
Subject: Repurpose EC4 grant funds

RIPTA is requesting to repurpose \$15,000 of EC4 funds currently allocated to RIPTA from the FY 2026 EC4 Spending Plan. These funds were originally designated to support RIPTA's vanpool program; however, RIPTA recently made the difficult decision to cease providing vanpool subsidies. Instead, RIPTA proposes to redirect these funds to support the Wave to Work program, as follows:

Wave to Work Employer Incentive Program

RIPTA proposes a targeted \$15,000 promotional initiative to expand participation in its Wave to Work program by offering free transit access to employees of newly enrolled employers. This initiative is designed to demonstrate the value of public transportation as a reliable, cost-effective commuting option while encouraging long-term employer partnerships. Through this first-come, first-served incentive, employers who sign up for Wave to Work will receive complimentary transit benefits for their employees for a defined introductory period. This "try it free" approach lowers barriers to entry, allowing both employers and employees the convenience and savings of using RIPTA services without upfront cost commitments. The \$15,000 investment will be allocated solely toward subsidizing employee transit usage.

By offering a risk-free introduction to transit benefits, RIPTA can build lasting relationships with employers, encourage lasting program participation, and position Wave to Work as a valuable component of employee benefit packages across Rhode Island. For employers, offering Wave to Work benefits is a meaningful way to reinforce corporate sustainability commitments and invest in a greener, more resilient Rhode Island.