

RIPTA – PAWTUCKET/CENTRAL FALLS BUS HUB PASSENGER FACILITY

The Governor proposes to use \$4.0 million in FY2023 and \$1.0 million in FY2024 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to support the continued construction of the Pawtucket Bus Hub passenger facility for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).

The Pawtucket Bus Hub passenger facility is currently under construction and is being built by the Department of Transportation on behalf of RIPTA. The Bus Hub will be co-located with the new Pawtucket/Central Falls Commuter Rail Station and will connect RIPTA and MBTA services as well as connecting 10 bus routes servicing the Blackstone Valley area. The passenger facility will include new features intended to enhance passenger comfort including restrooms, a customer service window, covered waiting areas, and a Pawtucket police substation. The facility will also include amenities and utilities for RIPTA employees including restrooms, storage and maintenance closets, and a break room.

Key components of the proposal include (quoted directly from budget documents):

- **U.S. Treasury Eligibility Category:** Revenue Replacement
- **Equity Components:**
 - **Population:** RIPTA has a plan that addresses how RIPTA serves low-income and minority population, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. This plan identifies bus routes that are monitored for impacts to both low-income and minority populations. This plan has identified the R-Line, RIPTA's highest ridership bus route, as one of these monitored routes due to the high proportions of minority that ride this route. This facility will directly improve the ridership experience for passengers along this route and will make transit more attractive to potential riders.
 - **Awareness:** As part of the development of this project, RIPTA can incorporate language into the project that identifies the SLFRF as the funding source of the project. The pandemic has made clear the desire of the public to have facilities such as this one and the resources will be well appreciated.
 - **Access and Distribution:** N/A
 - **Outcomes:** The intended outcome of this project is to improve the ridership experience for passengers to make transit easier to use and more attractive to potential riders. Based on the Transit Forward RI 2040 plan, RIPTA is attempting to reach a universal level of service to passengers that is determined by the ridership potential for each bus route. This project will help move RIPTA towards that goal.
- **Performance Metrics:** Monitor the following:

RIPTA's primary performance metric in all projects is impacts to ridership. RIPTA tracks ridership at a bus stop level, by route, so RIPTA will be able track ridership at this location to determine the effect of opening this new facility. Success will be defined as ridership growth of at least 10% over baseline numbers.