Aquidneck Island Planning Commission

Aquidneck Island
Transportation Study

On the move...connecting our communities

Preliminary Transit Improvement Alternatives

1. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BUS SERVICE

- Extend on-Island bus service window and seasons on Route 60 (East and West Main Roads)
- Provide more off-Island limited stops or express service between Newport and TF Green Airport/ Kingston Amtrak Station
- Expand FlexService areas and allow for same day scheduling

2. IMPROVE THE TRANSIT EXPERIENCE

- Provide real-time bus information to mobile phones and at key bus stop locations
- Provide branded bus shelters that fit with the communities at major stops
- Improve bus stop operations - consider bus pullouts and sidewalks/crosswalk upgrades
- Expand marketing of bus service

3. STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND ISLAND-WIDE MULTIMODAL CENTERS

- Upgrade Newport Gateway Center and create new hubs at Pell Bridge ramps and Melville serving as intercepts
- Expand accessibility of transit passes at multimodal hubs
- Integrate motorcoach parking and availability of car sharing (ZipCars)

4. CREATE PARK & RIDE OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide more Park & Ride lots on the Island to help more people commute by bus
- Improve marketing of the Park & Ride program

5. IMPLEMENT RAPID BUS SERVICE

- Enhance the attractiveness of the service through branding on the buses and stops and providing more frequent service
- Implement transit signal priority on Route 60 along West Main Road and East Main Road, with queue jump lanes where possible
- Reduce travel times by consolidating or eliminating closely spaced stops

6. ESTABLISH NEWPORT JITNEY SERVICE

- Endorse the Newport Jitney bus-trolley service from the Gateway Center to the beaches and hotels
- Extend the jitney service limits to the Pell Bridge ramp redevelopment area
- Align the jitney schedule and stops with RIPTA service

7. ENCOURAGE ISLAND EMPLOYERS TO EMBRACE TRANSIT

- Improve access to major employers (Navy, NUWC, and Raytheon)
- Implement employer-based EcoPass program and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs

8. ENHANCE FERRY SERVICE

- Reestablish RIPTA's Providence to Newport service as a seasonal service, primarily marketed to tourists
- Continue service to the West Bay/Jamestown
- Incorporate ferry service with special event planning
- Give RIPTA the authority to set ferry schedules and implement tailored service for special events
- Improve marketing of ferry service regionally

9. PRESERVE NEWPORT SECONDARY RAIL CORRIDOR

- Preserve the rail corridor as a contiguous right-of-way
- Promote continued track maintenance/grade-crossing improvements to retain Class I rating
- Increase potential use of appropriate/feasible seasonal/year-round passenger rail uses of corridor

10. ENCOURAGE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

- Encourage development (location and type) that promotes transit use
- Focus in areas around Multimodal Centers and at the Coddington Growth Center

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