



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

October 13, 2022

Mr. Normand Benoit
Chairman, Board of Directors
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
705 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Chairman Benoit:

As you are aware, Providence students are being negatively impacted by your organization. I was made aware that the issue of meeting the requirements necessary to fulfill the transportation for Providence students was known by your staff prior to the start of the school year. There were meetings and assurances given to PPSD, although there were no assigned drivers for the eight school "trippers," that RIPTA would be able to fulfill the need.

When it became apparent that this was not the case, my office met with management and labor representatives. It was discussed that a temporary solution would be put in place until the issue is resolved with a new schedule on October 22nd. This temporary solution is not working. Every day Providence parents anxiously wait until 6 a.m. to see if their child will have bus transportation to school. This is unacceptable and unmanageable on several levels.

We have been informed that management and labor are engaged in contract negotiations. We expect that your Board will take an active role in making sure that the temporary solution is remedied now and, that in the future, the trippers are assigned prior to the start of any school year. Additionally, it is also my understanding that there is no signed Memorandum of Agreement between your organization and the PPSD.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKee", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

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Cc: Scott Avedisian, Chief Executive Officer, RIPTA

Peter Alviti, Director, Department of Transportation

Senator Robert Kells, Vice Chair

Michelle Wilcox, Board Member

Marcy Reyes, Board Member

Heather Schey, Board Member

James Leach, Board Member

Patrick Crowley, Board Member