

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



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For Immediate Release
May 5, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Missing Transportation Link Coming for Wickford Village Patrons

North Kingstown, RI — In response to a long-standing request from Town Manager A. Ralph Mollis, RI Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) officials will hold a Public Hearing in Town Council Chambers at 5:30 PM at the historic Town Hall on 80 Boston Neck Road on Wednesday, May 10. The hearing is the necessary first step to establish a missing public transportation link between North Kingstown's Wickford Village, Wickford Junction, and the rest of the Ocean State.

Adding a stop on the existing Bus 14 Route will offer RIPTA riders direct access to Wickford Junction's rail services currently in place for T.F. Green International Airport and Providence, and further establish demand for future expansion of weekend rail access from Wickford Junction to MBTA and Amtrak services. The added stop on the Bus 14 route will also provide a welcome option for Wickford Village patrons to park at Wickford Junction for no cost, then easily reach Wickford Village where they can shop, dine, and more without the need to find Village parking.



With the proposed change effective June 17, “[West Bay Route](#)” riders of RIPTA’s Bus 14 will have a direct, daily link between Narragansett’s ocean beaches, Jamestown’s Ferry Landing, Newport’s Transportation Center, East Greenwich’s Main Street, CCRI, the Airport Interlink for T.F. Green International Airport, Providence’s Kennedy Plaza, and North Kingstown’s Wickford Village and Wickford Junction. In response to the planned route amendment, Town Manager Mollis said, “I am pleased to see an expansion of RIPTA services along a popular existing route and that the missing link for convenient public access between Wickford Junction, Wickford Village, and other regional destinations in high seasonal demand will be added.” He continued, “I would like to thank Director Avedisian and his staff for working with North Kingstown on this missing link. It’s my hope that establishing a dedicated Wickford Village, Wickford Junction and Quonset local loop remains a future possibility once ridership data can be analyzed.”

Please contact Kate Glass, Executive Assistant, at kglass@northkingstownri.gov with any questions.

— END —

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT STATEMENT

This Neighborhood Impact Statement provides details pertaining to the alteration of a RIPTA bus route. RIPTA holds a public hearing at least 30 days before the bus route change is scheduled to take effect.

Affected neighborhood(s):

North Kingstown

Effective date of service change:

June 17, 2023

Service frequency:

Weekday: 60 min

Saturday: 60 min

Sunday: 60 min

Affected bus route(s):

Route 14

Scheduled Public Hearing:

May 10, 2023: 5:30pm-6:30pm

North Kingstown Town Hall

80 Boston Neck Road

Service hours of affected routes:

Weekday: 4:31am—8:36pm

Saturday: 5:34am—8:42pm

Sunday: 8:10am—7:40pm

Description of service change:

Route 14 is proposed to deviate all trips to serve Wickford Junction in North Kingstown.

Benefits for service change:

The connection between Wickford Village and Wickford Junction is a long standing request. This will connect the riders on Rte. 14 from Newport, Jamestown, North Kingstown and East Greenwich to MBTA Service at the Junction and a direct transfer to Rte. 66 to URI, Wakefield and Galilee.

Reason for service change:

Safety concerns

To improve route performance

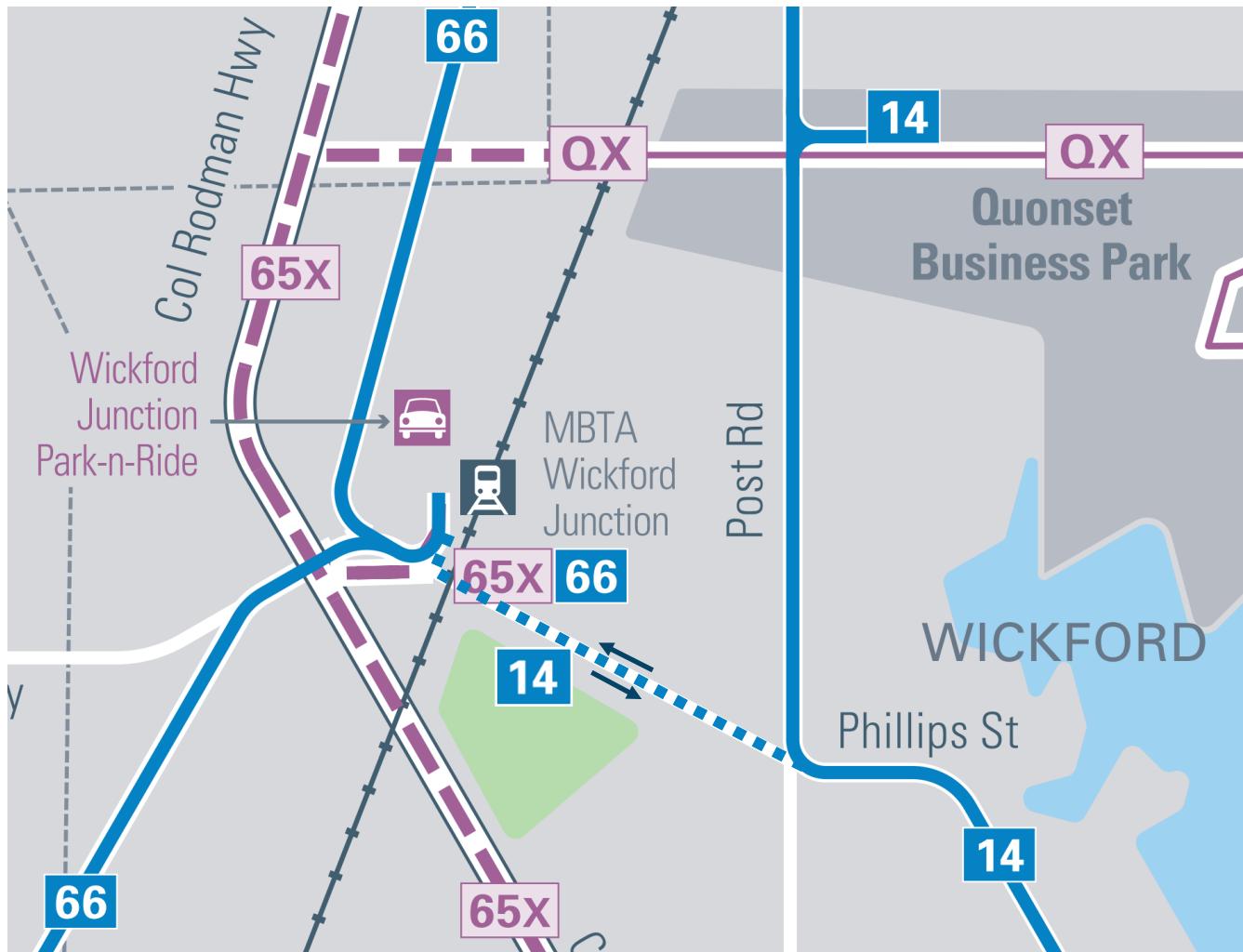
Serve a trip generator

Other: Request by the Town of North Kingstown

Ridership:

RIPTA expects that this change will increase ridership due to the new connections it will provide to MBTA train service. Ridership will be periodically monitored and evaluated to determine whether the service should remain in place.

Route 14—Proposed Change



SUMMER 2023