



Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

One East Shore Road | P.O. Box 437 | Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835-0437

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2025

RITBA Launches Educational Social Media Campaign to Address Smishing Scams

Today, the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority launched an educational social media campaign to inform customers about the widespread text scam known as smishing. Smishing is a scam that involves sending fraudulent communications via text message. Scam messages have been circulating that claim the recipient owes money for tolls.

"Smishing scams are on the rise, and we're committed to helping customers recognize and avoid them," said Lori Caron Silveira, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority. "We remind our customers to never click the link in a suspicious text and to always use trusted methods, such as visiting our official website, to verify their account status safely. We also want to assure our customers that we safeguard their data. We don't share their numbers or account information with anyone."

- Customers are advised to visit the official RITBA E-ZPass website: <https://www.ezpassritba.com/> to safely check their accounts.
- Customers who wish to report this smishing scam may visit the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at <https://www.ic3.gov/>. Suspicious texts can also be forwarded to 7726 (SPAM) to notify mobile providers.

The campaign will be featured on X at @RIEZPASS (<https://twitter.com/riezpass>), as well as on Facebook (www.facebook.com) where we can be found by searching for the "Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority."

Sample posts are attached below.

###

NO, WE DIDN'T TEXT YOU ABOUT AN UNPAID TOLL.
AND NO, WE DIDN'T GIVE OUT YOUR NUMBER.



**BUT SCAMMERS SURE HOPE
YOU THINK WE DID!**



• SMISHING SCAM AWARENESS •

**THE "UNPAID TOLL" TEXTS
ARE BAIT,**



DON'T GET HOOKED.



• SMISHING SCAM AWARENESS •

**YOU WOULDN'T YELL YOUR
CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IN A
CROWDED ROOM...**



**SO DON'T LET A SCAMMER GET IT
THROUGH A FAKE TOLL TEXT.**



• SMISHING SCAM AWARENESS •