
**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
ROUTE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 15, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Route Committee of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board met on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 1:30 PM remotely in accordance with the Governor's State of Emergency Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 20, relieving from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, permitting a public body to allow remote participation by all members.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members: Brian O'Leary, Belchertown; Peter Miller, Westfield; J.M. Sorrell, Williamsburg;

NOT PRESENT: N/A

A quorum being present, Chairman of the Route Committee, Brian O'Leary called the remote meeting of the Route Committee to order at 1:30 P.M.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to approve the meeting minutes of September 22, 2020.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Miller/Sorrell) to approve the meeting minutes of September 22, 2020.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.
J.M. Sorrell: Yes
Peter Miller: Yes
Brian O'Leary: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

4. SERVICE UPDATES

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations, reported the following:

R14: PVRTA modified the schedule on this route beginning on August 30, 2020 to provide more consistent service to Pheasant Hills Apartments and create overall efficiency in the route. While overall, this worked well, there were concerns regarding difficulty with some trips running behind schedule and the elimination of a stop at the Big-Y in West Springfield on certain trips. The schedule has been adjusted slightly to improve on-time performance and include a stop at Big-Y on all trips.

Agawam Senior Service: Working with the Agawam COA as part of our Beyond ADA program, we are in the process of implementing additional service aimed at providing a limited "circulator" route in Agawam that will provide more regular service to seniors and other members of the community.

The proposed route will provide service along a route running from Main Street to Walnut and High Streets, then traveling along Suffield Street and terminating at the Geisslers Plaza. This route will provide consistent service in a limited area without the need to schedule trips in advance. It could improve access to banking, medical appointments, shopping, etc. from assisted living facilities, apartment complexes and other points in the community. This route will provide connections with the existing R14 service. In time, we anticipate adding a microtransit component to this route.

Westfield State University: The future of service on campus with both the OWL Shuttle and the 10S is uncertain due to the pandemic and budget concerns at WSU.

Hadley Senior Service: We are implementing a smaller circulator type service with the Hadley COA as part of the Beyond ADA project. This circulator would provide regular access along a limited route on the Route 9 corridor from the intersection of University Drive and Route 9 to the Mount Farms Mall. This would allow seniors in town, the majority of whom access the service from Windfield Estates and Hawkins Meadows Apartments just off Route 9, to access shopping and medical trips. This service will provide connections with the existing fixed route service in the area.

Palmer Ware Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit: PVRTA and the Quaboag Connector have received funding to acquire scheduling software for the Quaboag region that will allow us to integrate portions of our system in the Palmer/Ware area with Quaboag's to coordinate service and provide more effective transit solutions. This partnership will allow us to enhance service in the area, including resuming a second circulator operated by Quaboag Connector. Hulmes will operate a redefined deviated fixed-route circulator in Palmer and provide more frequent connections to Springfield both at Union Station and the Eastfield Mall area of Springfield. Once the scheduling software is installed, we will initiate a microtransit option in the region. This will allow for the scheduling of same-day trips and provide access to transit for riders who live within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the fixed route. Because these changes will likely impact the number of service hours and miles significantly, public hearings will need to be held in the area. We are requesting authorization from the Route Committee to conduct a public hearing for this route.

Amherst/Worcester Intercity Service: PVRTA has been informed that it will receive funding to implement a new route that will directly connect the PVRTA service area and the WRTA and the MBTA Union Station in Worcester. PVRTA and Quaboag Connector will partner to operate this route. Quaboag will operate the route with PVRTA providing the vehicle and providing maintenance support and garaging. The route will begin in the Amherst Center and end at Union Station in Worcester with stops in most town centers in each community along the Route 9 corridor from Amherst to Worcester. This route will operate as a commuter route with a different fare structure than typical PVRTA routes. Fares on this route are proposed to range from \$3.50 to \$9.00 depending on the origin and destination. Because this is a new route, public hearings will need to be held in the

area. We are requesting authorization from the Route Committee to conduct a public hearing for this route as well.

5. APPROVAL TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SERVICE MODIFICATIONS FOR THE PALMER/WARE SHUTTLE & QUABOAG MICROTRANSIT AND THE AMHERST/WORCESTER INTERCITY ROUTE.

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to approve holding public hearings on service modifications for the Palmer/Ware Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Sorrell/Miller) to approve holding public hearings on service modifications for the Palmer/Ware Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

J.M. Sorrell: Yes

Peter Miller: Yes

Brian O'Leary: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to approve holding public hearings on the Amherst/Worcester Intercity Route.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Sorrell/Miller) to approve holding public hearings on the Amherst/Worcester Intercity Route.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

J.M. Sorrell: Yes

Peter Miller: Yes

Brian O'Leary: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman O'Leary reported that there is no other business to discuss.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to adjourn.

MOTION: Moved and seconded (Sorrell/Miller) to adjourn.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

J.M. Sorrell: Yes

Peter Miller: Yes

Brian O'Leary: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

The meeting of the PVTA Route Committee adjourned at 1:58 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST: 
BRANDY PELLETIER

Documents filed with Route Committee meeting packet:

- September 22, 2020 Route Committee Minutes

MINUTES APPROVED: 5-18-21