
**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Advisory Board Meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 12:00 P.M. remotely as allowed by Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, an act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency which, among other things, further extends temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027.

	<u><i>Present (45.25 votes)</i></u>	<u><i>Not Present (16.76 votes)</i></u>
Agawam	Cindy Sullivan	
Amherst	Paul Bockelman	
Belchertown		Edward Boscher
Chicopee	Steve Huntley	
East Longmeadow	Sharon Giordano	
Easthampton	Ashley Fraga	
Granby		Glen Sexton
Hadley		David Moskin
Hampden	Becky Moriarty	
Holyoke	Stephen Fay	
Leverett		Tom Hankinson
Longmeadow		Joshua Levine
Ludlow	Anthony Alves	
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra	
Palmer	Benjamin Hood	
Pelham	Jessica Barr	
South Hadley		Andrea Miles
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan	
Sunderland		Becky Torres
Ware		Nancy Talbot
West Springfield		Mayor William Reichelt
Westfield	Peter Miller	
Wilbraham	Paula Dubord	
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell	
ADA Representative		Vacant
Rider Representative		Vacant

A quorum of 31.01 votes being present, Chair J.M. Sorrell called the remote meeting of PVTA's Advisory Board to order at 12:05 PM; majority vote of 45.25 present at meeting call to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved and seconded (Huntley/Miller) to approve the meeting minutes from the June 18, 2025 Advisory Board Meeting.

Chair Sorrell asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Agawam	Cindy Sullivan		
Amherst	Paul Bockelman		
Belchertown			
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow	Sharon Giordano		
Easthampton	Ashley Fraga		
Granby			
Hadley			
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Leverett			
Longmeadow			
Ludlow	Anthony Alves		
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley			
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
Sunderland			
Ware			
West Springfield			
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Wilbraham	Paula Dubord		
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		

Motion passed by a vote of 45.25, all in favor.

4. PVTA SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Chair Sorrell asked members of the Advisory Board to email Brandy, Sandra, or JM any Sub-Committees they are interested in joining or remaining on by September 8th and encouraged each member to serve on at least one sub-committee.

5. REPORT OF PVTA'S ROUTE SUB-COMMITTEE

Ben Hood reported that the Route sub-committee met on August 14th. The committee did not have a quorum present, so members stayed for informational purposes and discussed the proposed fall service changes.

6. APPROVAL OF FALL SERVICE CHANGES

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations, reported on the fall service changes:

The R29 currently connects Springfield and Amherst with 6 round trips daily on weekdays and 2 round trips on weekend days.

The 38 currently connects Mount Holyoke College with Amherst Hampshire and UMass Amherst beginning at Mount Holyoke and terminating at Haigis Mall. During the school year this service operates every half hour.

The 36 begins at Olympia Place in Amherst and ends at Atkins Farm in Amherst.

The proposed change includes terminating the R29 at Mount Holyoke College instead of Haigis Mall and connecting with the 38 at Mount Holyoke. This configuration will allow us to increase frequency significantly on the R29 to every half hour. The 36 and 38 will be combined and operate as one route year-round with a different schedule for no school periods designated the 38NS. Currently the 36 only operates during no school periods while the 38 operates only during the school year, combining them provides more consistent year-round service.

R24: This route currently operates as a one-way loop with service from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. The R24 will be configured for two-way service along a newly defined route that will begin at the Holyoke Transit Center, travel to Lincoln St. Stop and Shop and travel down Lincoln to Northampton St with a stop at Holyoke Medical Center before returning to Northampton St. It will then travel down Whiting Farms Road to the Holyoke Mall and return. Service on the R24 will expand to 7 days a week providing much needed weekend service to Holyoke Medical Center.

The R24 will no longer serve Main St. due to the new configuration, however, the R29 will provide 46 total trips on Main St. each weekday, a significant increase from the current level of service for both routes.

We plan to implement these changes on August 24th.

PVTA held seven (7) public hearings between April 30th and May 15th at UMass, Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley Town Hall, Holyoke Transportation Center and Holyoke Media. These meetings were held hybrid via Zoom Platform, and the Holyoke Media Meeting was broadcast via Holyoke Local Access television.

Comments received at the hearings were positive with general questions about the changes. No negative comments were received. A complete listing of all comments is included in the Title VI Draft in your Board packet.

The Title VI analysis shows the following;

- That the proposal to realign Routes R24, R29 and replace Route 36 with Route 38 No School to operate during school breaks will improve service along the UMass-Holyoke Corridor.
- The analysis shows that each proposal will create an increasing number of transit trips in the vicinity and will enhance mobility for a greater proportion of low-income and minority groups than the system or average.
- No disparate impact nor disproportionate burden.

In addition to the changes to the routes addressed in the Title VI analysis, we are also proposing to make the following changes:

Adding / extending Sunday service:

G5: New Sunday service with trips roughly every hour from 7:00am to 6:00pm.

X92: New Sunday service with trips every 45 minutes from 7:20am to 5:48pm.

R14: Currently Sunday service ends at Rocky's on Springfield St, service will be extended to Pheasant Hill Apartments via Maple St.

Improved frequency;

B6: On weekdays, frequency increases from every 30 minutes to every 20 minutes and restore this route to pre-covid levels of service.

34: Improved frequency from approximately every 25 minutes to approximately every 15 minutes to match the 35 and restore this route to pre-covid levels of service.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Sheehan/Huntley) to accept the report of the Route Sub-Committee and approve the Fall Service Changes as presented.

Chair Sorrell asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Agawam	Cindy Sullivan		
Amherst	Paul Bockelman		
Belchertown			
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow	Sharon Giordano		
Easthampton	Ashley Fraga		
Granby			
Hadley			
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Leverett			
Longmeadow			

Ludlow	Anthony Alves
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra
Palmer	Benjamin Hood
Pelham	Jessica Barr
South Hadley	
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland	
Ware	
West Springfield	
Westfield	Peter Miller
Wilbraham	Paula Dubord
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell

Motion passed by a vote of 45.25, all in favor.

7. DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT OPERATIONS REPORT

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

Systemwide ridership continues to increase. Ridership for June 2025, at 577,488 was up 4.8% over June 2024.

Ridership by operator for April:

- DGR 503 K 22K (4.6%) from June of 2024
- UMass 72K up 4K (5.8%) from June of 2024
- Hulmes 2720 up 563 (26.1%) from June of 24

Paratransit ridership continues to increase steadily when compared to the previous year. June paratransit ridership at 16538 was an increase of 378 passengers (2.3%) over June of 2024.

Ridership Recovery: Year to date, ridership in FY 2025 totals 9,472,133 on the fixed route, exceeding FY 24 ridership by 20.92%.

Fixed route ridership for the year was 93.6% of 2019's ridership.

Paratransit ridership recovery for FY 25 at 211,794 is 81.3% of 2019 ridership for the same time period.

Safety and Security: While the rate of assaults on front line workers compared to the prior year continued to decline steadily for much of this year, May saw a significant increase in assaults to 14. However, this is a common theme for May. For the three years we have been tracking assaults in detail, May has seen both the highest number of actual assaults each year, as well as the highest per 100K vehicle revenue miles and per 100K passengers. Our rate for 2025 is still much lower than for May of 2024 and 2023

June saw a return to significantly lower assault numbers with the lowest actual number of assaults since we began tracking as well as the lowest number of assaults per 100K vehicle revenue miles. though 2025 tied with February 2025 for the lowest rate of assaults per 100K since we began tracking assaults.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Sorrell reported that there is no new business to discuss.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Sorrell reported that there is no old business to discuss.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sorrell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Hood/Huntley) to adjourn.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Agawam	Cindy Sullivan		
Amherst	Paul Bockelman		
Belchertown			
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow	Sharon Giordano		
Easthampton	Ashley Fraga		
Granby			
Hadley			
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Leverett			
Longmeadow			
Ludlow	Anthony Alves		
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley			
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
Sunderland			
Ware			
West Springfield			
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Wilbraham	Paula Dubord		
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		

Motion passed by a vote of 45.25, all in favor.

The meeting of the Advisory Board adjourned at 12:26 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST: _____
BRANDY PELLETTIER

Documents filed with Board Meeting packet:

- Roll Call Votes
- Advisory Board Minutes of 6-18-25

Minutes Approved: September 17, 2025