
**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 17, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Advisory Board Meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, September 17, 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 (40.20 votes)</i></u>	<u><i>Not Present (21.81 votes)</i></u>
Agawam		Cindy Sullivan
Amherst	Paul Bockelman	
Belchertown		Edward Boscher
Chicopee	Steve Huntley	
East Longmeadow		Sharon Giordano
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail	
Granby		Glen Sexton
Hadley	David Moskin	
Hampden	Becky Moriarty	
Holyoke	Stephen Fay	
Leverett		Tom Hankinson
Longmeadow		Lyn Simmons
Ludlow		Anthony Alves
Northampton		Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra
Palmer	Benjamin Hood	
Pelham	Jessica Barr	
South Hadley	Lisa Wong (12:04pm)	
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 12:01 PM; majority vote of 38.43 present at meeting call to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved and seconded (Sheehan/Fay) to approve the meeting minutes from the August 20, 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			
Amherst	Paul Bockelman		
Belchertown			
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow			
Easthampton			Cynthia Tarail
Granby			
Hadley	David Moskin		
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Leverett			
Longmeadow			
Ludlow			
Northampton			
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley	Lisa Wong		
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
Sunderland			
Ware			
West Springfield			
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Wilbraham			
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		
ADA Representative			
Rider Representative			

Motion passed by a vote of 38.69, all in favor with one abstention.

4. **PVTA SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Chair Sorrell made the following sub-committee appointments:

Finance & Audit Sub-Committee Members:

- 1) Steve Huntley (Chair)
- 2) Stephan Fay
- 3) David Moskin
- 4) J.M. Sorrell

Paratransit Sub-Committee Members:

- 1) Cindy Tarail (Chair)
- 2) Paula Dubord
- 3) Steve Huntley
- 4) Becky Moriarty

Route Sub-Committee Members:

- 1) Peter Miller (Chair)
- 2) Tim Sheehan
- 3) Ben Hood
- 4) Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

Administrator's Compensation Committee Members:

- 1) J.M. Sorrell (Chair)
- 2) Lyn Simmons
- 3) Peter Miller

Futures Sub-Committee Members:

- 1) Ben Hood (Chair)

5. **PVTA FY25 AUDIT**

Administrator Sheehan reported that PVTA's year-end audit is not complete. David Irwin, the Audit Director with Adelson & Company, has asked if the Advisory Board may grant the Finance and Audit Sub-Committee the authority to approve and accept the year end Audit for FY25 at a meeting to be held between the Auditors and the Finance and Audit Sub-Committee to meet the submittal deadline to the state on October 7th and the Board can ratify at the next Advisory Board meeting on November 19th.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Miller/Sheehan) for the Advisory Board to authorize PVTA's Finance and Audit Sub-Committee the authority to review, accept and approve PVTA's FY 25 Audit Report on behalf of the PVTA Advisory Board to submit to the state prior to the October 7th deadline and the Advisory Board will review the Audit Report at its Regular Meeting scheduled for November 19th to ratify the authority given to the Finance and Audit Sub-Committee.

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			

Amherst	Paul Bockelman	
Belchertown		
Chicopee	Steve Huntley	
East Longmeadow		
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail	
Granby		
Hadley		David Moskin
Hampden	Becky Moriarty	
Holyoke	Stephen Fay	
Leverett		
Longmeadow		
Ludlow		
Northampton		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood	
Pelham	Jessica Barr	
South Hadley	Lisa Wong	
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan	
Sunderland		
Ware		
West Springfield		
Westfield	Peter Miller	
Wilbraham		
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell	
ADA Representative		
Rider Representative		

Motion passed by a vote of 38.32, all in favor with one abstention.

6. **DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT OPERATIONS REPORT**

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

Fixed Route Systemwide ridership continues to increase. Ridership for June 2025, at 623,226 was up 1% over July 2024.

Ridership by operator for April:

- DGR 547K up 1K (.2%) from July of 2024
- UMass 73K up 4K (5.8%) from July of 2024
- Hulmes 2838 up 674 (31.1%) from July of 2024

Paratransit ridership continues to increase steadily when compared to the previous year. June paratransit ridership at 16,538 was an increase of 378 passengers (2.3%) over June of 2024.

Ridership Recovery: Year to date, ridership in FY 26 totals 623,226 up 1% over FY 25 to this point Fixed route ridership for the year was 101.7% of 2019's ridership.

Paratransit ridership recovery for FY 26 at 211,794 is 81.3% of 2019 ridership for the same time period.

Route Updates: Changes to the following routes that the Board approved at the August meeting took effect on August 24th and September 1st.

Adding or expanding Sunday service on the G5, X92, and R14.

Improved frequency on the following routes:

- B6: On weekdays, frequency increases from every 30 minutes to every 20 minutes
- 34: Improved frequency from approximately every 25 minutes to approximately every 15 minutes.
- Realigned the R29 and 38 to improve frequency on the southern portion of the R29. We also redesigned the R24 to provide ~~2~~-two- way service and add weekend service on this route. While these changes have only been in effect for a few weeks, initial ridership trends are very positive.

Safety and Security: 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. July, while higher, still showed a continued level of lower assaults than prior years per 100k passengers and VRM. With 9 total assaults, it was tied for the second highest level of assaults in number with the second highest rate overall with only May showing a higher level of assaults.

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Sandra Sheehan, Administrator, reported the following:

On the federal level, congress is being urged to reauthorize the next Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act before its deadline of September 30, 2026. The request includes that public transit investment levels should, at minimum, include inflation adjustments. The American Public Transit Association has released their annual report titled, Public Transportation Fact Book. The data highlights the growth and economic impact of the public transportation industry in the U.S., reinforcing the need for strong and consistent investment in public transportation systems nationwide.

On the state level, PVTA staff will be working with the Finance & Audit Sub Committee to revise the FY26 Budget to include additional funding allocated to the RTAs. This includes the monies from the Supplemental Budget, the Fare Free funds and any funding that may be awarded from the Connectivity and Micro-transit grant programs.

As approved by the Advisory Board and funded by Massachusetts legislation, PVTA is continuing the Try-Transit Fare Free program. Fixed route and paratransit services are free to passengers until June 30th, 2026. Fares will be collected on the B79 service between Amherst and Worcester.

As mentioned at previous meetings, a new regional bus service connecting the four counties in Western Mass will be implemented in November. Link413, operated as a partnership of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), and PVTA will provide multiple roundtrips on weekdays between the cities of North Adams, Greenfield, Pittsfield, and Northampton. This program is funded by MassDOT's Connectivity Grant Program

and will be utilizing coaches transferred from Beaver County Transit Authority in Rochester, PA. The transferred was approved by FTA and the vehicles will be transported to FRTA where they will be wrapped and prepared for service.

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 (Fay/Huntley) to adjourn.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Agawam			
Amherst	Paul Bockelman		
Belchertown			
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow			
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail		
Granby			
Hadley	David Moskin		
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Leverett			
Longmeadow			
Ludlow			
Northampton			
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley	Lisa Wong		
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
Sunderland			
Ware			
West Springfield			
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Wilbraham			
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		
ADA Representative			
Rider Representative			

Motion passed by a vote of 40.20 all in favor.

The meeting of the Advisory Board adjourned at 12:34 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST: _____
BRANDY PELLETIER

Documents filed with Board Meeting packet:

- Roll Call Votes
- Advisory Board Minutes of 8-20-25

Minutes Approved: November 19, 2025