
**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Advisory Board Meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 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 (44.04 votes)</i></u>	<u><i>Not Present (17.97 votes)</i></u>
Agawam	Cindy Sullivan	
Amherst	Paul Bockelman	
Belchertown		Edward Boscher
Chicopee		Steve Huntley
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino	
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail	
Granby		Glen Sexton
Hadley		David Moskin
Hampden	Becky Moriarty	
Holyoke	Nilka Ortiz	
Leverett		Tom Hankinson
Longmeadow	Lyn Simmons	
Ludlow	Anthony Alves	
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra (12:06)	
Palmer	Benjamin Hood	
Pelham	Jessica Barr	
South Hadley	Chuck Romboletti	
Springfield	Brian Connors	
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 12:03 PM; majority vote of 41.01 present at meeting call to order.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were made.

(Northampton joined meeting at 12:06pm, Quorum present: 44.04)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved and seconded (Moriarty/Bockelman) to approve the meeting minutes from the November 19, 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			
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino		
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail		
Granby			
Hadley			
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Nilka Ortiz		
Leverett			
Longmeadow	Lyn Simmons		
Ludlow	Anthony Alves		
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley	Chuck Romboletti		
Springfield	Brian Connors		
Sunderland			
Ware			
West Springfield			
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Wilbraham			Paula Dubord
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		
ADA Representative			
Rider Representative			

Motion passed by a vote of 42.74 in favor with one abstention (Wilbraham).

4. **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) UPDATE**

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations, reported on PVTA's PTASP:

PVTA is required to review the (PTASP) annually with a focus on answering the following three questions;

- Does the Agency Safety Plan address all relevant requirements?
- Does the Agency Safety Plan reflect PVTA's transit system as it operates today?
- Are the activities and processes described in the plan suitable to manage safety at PVTA?

The answer to each of these questions was yes. As a result, there were no updates required of the Safety Plan other than updated Safety Targets which are provided below.

General Safety Performance Measures for Fixed Route:

MEASURE	2026 Target	2026 Target Rate
MAJOR EVENTS	5	0.01
PEDESTRIAN COLLISION (FY)	1	0.02
VEHICULAR COLLISION (FY)	64	1.29
TOTAL COLLISIONS (FY)	65	1.3
FATALITIES	0	0
TRANSIT WORKER FATALITIES	0	0
INJURIES*	50	1
TRANSIT WORKER INJURIES*	5	0.01
ASSAULTS ON TRANSIT WORKERS*	115	2.32
SYSTEM RELIABILITY		
PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS (FY)	n/a	2.15
MILES BETWEEN BREAKDOWNS (FY)	20,500	n/a

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR THE SAFETY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM FIXED ROUTE	2026 Target Number	2026 Target Rate per 100k VRM
MAJOR EVENT	5	0.1
COLLISIONS (FY)	65	1.3
INJURIES	50	1

General Safety Performance Measures for Paratransit:

MEASURE

	2026 Target	2026 Target Rate
MAJOR EVENTS	1	0.03
PEDESTRIAN COLLISION (FY)	0	0
VEHICULAR COLLISION (FY)	20	0.67
TOTAL COLLISIONS (FY)	20	0.67
FATALITIES	0	0
TRANSIT WORKER FATALITIES	0	0
INJURIES*	1	0.03
TRANSIT WORKER INJURIES*	1	0.03
ASSAULTS ON TRANSIT WORKERS*	1	0.03
SYSTEM RELIABILITY		
PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS (FY)	n/a	1
MILES BETWEEN BREAKDOWNS (FY)	40,000	n/a

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
FOR THE SAFETY RISK REDUCTION
PROGRAM PARATRANSIT

MEASURE	2026 Target Number	2026 Target Rate per 100k VRM
MAJOR EVENT	1	0.03
COLLISIONS (FY)	20	0.67
INJURIES	1	0.03
ASSAULTS ON TRANSIT WORKERS	1	0.03

Motion: Moved and seconded (Simmons/Miller) to approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) update.

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			

East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail
Granby	
Hadley	
Hampden	Becky Moriarty
Holyoke	Nilka Ortiz
Leverett	
Longmeadow	Lyn Simmons
Ludlow	Anthony Alves
Northampton	Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra
Palmer	Benjamin Hood
Pelham	Jessica Barr
South Hadley	Chuck Romboletti
Springfield	Brian Connors
Sunderland	
Ware	
West Springfield	
Westfield	Peter Miller
Wilbraham	Paula Dubord
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell
ADA Representative	
Rider Representative	

Motion passed by a vote of 44.04, all in favor.

5. **DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT OPERATIONS REPORT**

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

Systemwide ridership continues to increase. October ridership exceeded one million. At 1,135,546, our highest monthly ridership since September of 2018. Ridership for November was 897,858, up 4.4% over FY 25.

Ridership by operator for November:

- DGR 603K up 37K (6.5%) from November of 2024
- UMass 290K down 1K -.003%) from November of 2024
- Hulmes 3043 up 988 (48.07%) from November of 2024

Paratransit ridership showed decreases over the prior year in October and November primarily due to staffing challenges that have now been corrected. November paratransit ridership declined 5.07% over the prior year. Preliminary December ridership numbers show a significant increase over December of 2024 (1,175 riders 7.13%). Through December preliminary numbers indicate ridership is up 1.1% over the prior year.

Route Updates:

The Pelham Greenfield route (formerly the Amherst Greenfield route) continues to show steady growth over the prior year. December ridership (159) was slightly higher than November's (153).

Winter service changes took effect on December 21st, these include:

- **R10:** Improve frequency from 45 minutes to 30 minutes.
- **G2:** Improve service from thirty minutes to 20 minutes.
- **X94:** Service extension to Colonial Estates in Springfield on this route (in addition to the service provided by the B7).

Safety and Security: With few exceptions in calendar year 2025, we continue to see a declining trend in the number of verbal and physical assaults on operators. The month of October was one such exception and we saw an increase in the number of both physical and verbal assaults. With three (3) physical assaults and ten (10) verbal, October had the second highest number of assaults in 2025.

November showed a significant decrease in the number of total assaults with only 1 physical and 4 verbal assaults across the system.

In December, Governor Healey signed into law “An Act relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker.” This legislation makes an assault and battery on a transit worker a felony punishable by up to two and half years in prison.

6. **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Sandra Sheehan, Administrator, reported the following:

MassDOT has funded the Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan for all the RTAs. This plan will guide the region's transit priorities and improvements over the next five years. The recommendations establish a framework for implementing service adjustments, capital improvements, and policy initiatives with the goal of improving mobility for residents across the region. PVTA was provided with a draft copy of the final version of the plan last week. Staff is currently reviewing the draft report including the recommendations. Once the plan becomes final, PVTA will present to the Board.

PVTA partners with several local Councils on Aging (COAs) in its member communities to expand access to transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities. These services are for travel within the communities and provide access to medical care in neighboring communities when needed.

Currently, PVTA partners with the communities of Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and Hampden through the Tri-Town Trolley. In addition, there is a program in Agawam, Hadley, Ware, and Williamsburg.

PVTA is also working with the City of Westfield to establish a new program, as well as with the South County Senior Center—serving Sunderland and South Deerfield—to implement a similar service.

Each program is tailored to meet the specific needs of its community. For example, the Town of Ware established a program focused specifically on providing transportation for medical care following the closure of Baystate Mary Lane Hospital.

These programs are grant-funded by MassDOT, with the grant covering 50% of operating costs and the community—typically through its senior center—funding the remaining 50%. PVTA provides support with grant applications for both program operations and vehicles. If a COA applies for vehicles in partnership with PVTA, there is currently no local cost share required for the vehicle.

7. NEW BUSINESS

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

8. OLD BUSINESS

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sorrell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Fay/Bockelman) to adjourn.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Agawam	Cindy Sullivan		
Amherst	Paul Bockelman		
Belchertown			
Chicopee			
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino		
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail		
Granby			
Hadley			
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Nilka Ortiz		
Leverett			
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Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley	Chuck Romboletti		
Springfield	Brian Connors		

Sunderland

Ware

West Springfield

Westfield

Peter Miller

Wilbraham

Paula Dubord

Williamsburg

J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative

Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 44.04, all in favor.

The meeting of the Advisory Board adjourned at 12:37 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST: _____
BRANDY PELLETTIER

Documents filed with Board Meeting packet:

- Roll Call Votes
- Advisory Board Minutes of 11-19-25
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Update

Minutes Approved: March 18, 2026