
**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
August 19, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Advisory Board Meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, August 19, 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 (40.82 votes)</i></u>	<u><i>Not Present (22.77 votes)</i></u>
Agawam		Cindy Sullivan
Amherst		Paul Bockelman
Belchertown		Ezekiel Baskin
Chicopee	Steve Huntley	
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino	
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 (Arrived after Roll Call)	
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan	
Sunderland		Becky Torres
Ware		Nancy Talbot
West Springfield	Stephanie Nunez	
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 12:04 PM; majority vote of 39.25 present at Roll Call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comments were made.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved and seconded (Huntley/Fay) to approve the meeting minutes from the June 17, 2026 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>
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino		
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail		
Hadley	David Moskin		
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Longmeadow	Lyn Simmons		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
West Springfield	Stephanie Nunez		
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		

Motion passed by a vote of 39.25; all was in favor.

4. **TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Carl Jackson of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission presented PVTA’s Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan update. PVTA’s TAM plan needs to be reviewed and updated every three years. However, every year, PVTA must set goals for what we are trying to accomplish as it pertains to our assets.

The TAM Plan is a requirement by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as PVTA is a Tier 1 agency. It includes PVTA’s goals and objectives which include improving reliability and on-time performance, improving productivity, and achieving cost savings over the life cycle of the asset. Ensuring safety of customers and employees, increasing ridership improving customer satisfaction, and supporting environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The TAM plan also includes the latest National Transit Database, or NTD, vehicle inventory, which we update annually, and is also presented here for your approval. Based on the data from PVTA and their partner operators, PVPC has assembled.

This list of revenue vehicles, which includes fixed route buses, 60-foot articulated buses, vans, and cutaways. In total, PVTA has 322 vehicles with an average age of 7.5 years. Roughly half are beyond their ULB, which is the useful life benchmark based on the vehicle termination dates that are set by the FTA. Similarly, the term rating is on a scale of five being excellent and one being poor. PVTA vehicles have an average term rating of 3, which is about adequate. It is also important to note that PVTA now has 50 low-and no carbon emission vehicles, including 27 electric vehicles and 25 hybrid buses.

The inventory also includes non-revenue and support vehicles. This includes cars, trucks, and SUVs used by support staff. These vehicles do tend to be a little older and average about eight and a half years. But because the FTA gives them a longer service life, their term rating is also deemed adequate. Also included are a total of 10 maintenance, administrative, and passenger facilities utilized by PVTA. Some of these facilities are as old as the agency itself, while others are fairly new. In line with PVTA's goal of improving productivity and achieving cost savings over the life cycle of any asset, we recommend the following performance targets. For revenue vehicles, we are trying to reduce the number of vehicles that are past their useful benchmark.

We were at 48% back in FY26 for all revenue vehicles and would like to get to 45% by FY27.

For non-revenue vehicles, PVTA will continue to strive for a goal of about 60%.

For facilities, since buildings are getting older, we are hoping to maintain a 65% to 70% level of adequacy for these facilities.

A full copy of PVTA’s Transit Asset Management Plan is filed with the minutes of this meeting.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Moskin/Miller) to approve the TAM Plan Update and performance targets.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino		
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail		
Hadley	David Moskin		
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Longmeadow	Lyn Simmons		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
West Springfield	Stephanie Nunez		
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		

Motion passed by a vote of 39.25; all was in favor.

5. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Lori Brodeur, Director of Finance, reported on PVRTA's preliminary FY26 budget to actual to date and stated the following:

- Total fare revenue has a variance of \$130,772 for additional fares on collected routes.
- Miscellaneous has a variance of \$431,484 for favorable interest on investments
- Transportation Subsidies has a variance of \$538,785 for Fare Free Funds from last year
- Fringe variance of \$115,664 due to open positions
- Service variance of \$614,734 for RANS paydown and FIFA Expenses
- Lease and CAM Charges has a variance of \$225,731 for Claims Payments offset

Total Expenditures budgeted is \$71,052,762 with actual expenditures \$70,397,546 to date, for a net profit of \$1,953,190, which will be consolidated with capital expenses during audit.

6. DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT OPERATIONS REPORT

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

Fixed Route Ridership Systemwide continues to increase. Ridership for Fiscal Year 2026 was 10,263,315. An increase of 8.4% over FY 25.

This is the highest level of ridership in the system since 2018. Ridership by operator for March:

- DGR 7.356 million up 730K (11.0%) over 2025
- UMass 2.861 million up 54K passengers (1.9%) over 2025
- Hulmes 37,827 up 8511 passengers (29.0%) over 2025

FY26 paratransit ridership has been essentially flat when compared with FY 2025. Ridership for FY26 totaled 211,804 passengers, an increase of only 10 passengers over last year's 211,794.

Route Updates:

Link 413: This service continues to grow with ridership surpassing 1,350 total passengers for all three routes with most of the ridership (62%) occurring on the Pittsfield Northampton Route (904).

B49: Began service on March 30, this route providing service between Ware and Holyoke along routes 9 and 202. Ridership on this route is consistently robust with an average of 31 passengers per day and a total of 1,560 passengers through 6/8.

G47 began service on May 18. This route provides a direct connection between Northampton and Southwick and operates on 70-minute frequency Monday through Friday. Ridership on this route has averaged 46 passengers per day in the first 15 days of service with a total ridership through June 8 of 693 passengers.

G1 Due to road improvements and in an effort to minimize the impacts of the ongoing construction on Sumner Avenue, the G1 was split into two routes, the G1 Chicopee and the G1 Springfield.

Safety and Security:

Both verbal and physical assaults on drivers remain at the generally low levels seen in calendar year 2025 and remain significantly reduced from prior years in both number and rate.

However, June saw the largest number of overall assaults (12) since October of last year. Despite this, the overall assault rate through the first half of 2026 is still below last year's rate. While July data is incomplete, July's assault rate resumes the trend to lower assaults we have seen since October of 2025.

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Sandra Sheehan, Administrator, reported the following:

On the state level, on July 9th the Governor signed the FY27 State Budget into law. The funding that was approved includes the appropriations for FY27 from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund and the Fair Share Amendment as well as Supplemental Budget from the CY2026 Fair Share collection. This budget is a \$5M increase in the fare free program and \$3.45M increase in transit operations. The RTAs are determining how to split the funds amongst the 15 RTAs. The concern is how long supplemental funds will be available as these funds are one-time funds currently being used as annual appropriations by the RTAs.

On the federal level, in advance of September 30, 2026, deadline for government funding, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027. this four-month Continuing Resolution (CR) funds Federal government programs, including programs of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, through December 11, 2026. However, the bill does not include advance appropriations, a form of guaranteed funding provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

On July 21st, the House passed H.R. 9770 to continue government funding through December 4th. The House CR does not include an authorizing extension of the Highway Trust Fund programs or advance appropriations.

The House is expected to act on the Senate Continuing Resolution when it returns late August to avoid a full Federal Government shutdown and expiration of the IIJA at the end of September.

PVTA commenced the transition of the paratransit scheduling and dispatching software system. PVTA has selected Spare Labs to replace ADEPT. Go Live has been scheduled for the first week of October.

PVTA is in receipt of four 40' hybrid transit buses. In addition, PVTA has placed an order for replacement vehicles that include ten 40' hybrid transit buses and two 40' electric buses.

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/Miller) to adjourn.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Chicopee	Steve Huntley		
East Longmeadow	Emily Constantino		
Easthampton	Cynthia Tarail		
Hadley	David Moskin		
Hampden	Becky Moriarty		
Holyoke	Stephen Fay		
Longmeadow	Lyn Simmons		
Palmer	Benjamin Hood		
Pelham	Jessica Barr		
South Hadley	Lisa Wong		
Springfield	Timothy Sheehan		
West Springfield	Stephanie Nunez		
Westfield	Peter Miller		
Williamsburg	J.M. Sorrell		

Motion passed by a vote of 40.82; all was in favor.

The meeting of the Advisory Board adjourned at 12:53 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST: _____
BRANDY PELLETIER

Documents filed with Board Meeting packet:

- Roll Call Votes
- Advisory Board Minutes of 6-17-26
- PVTa TAM Plan
- Preliminary Budget to Actual to Date

Minutes Approved: September 30, 2026