

**MINUTES OF PVTA'S  
ROUTE COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 24, 2016**

The Route Committee meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2016 at 2:30 P.M. at the PVTA.

**PRESENT:**

Brian O'Leary, Belchertown; Paul Burns, Palmer; Patrick Burke, Rider Rep., Peter Miller, Westfield; Jim Czach, West Springfield; Mary MacInnes, PVTA; Brandy Lamour, PVTA; Josh Rickman, PVTA;

**NOT PRESENT:**

Nancy Talbot, Ware;

A quorum being present, Chairman of the Route Committee, Brian O'Leary called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to approve the meeting minutes of May 28, 2014 and May 27, 2015.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded (Burns/Czach) to approve the meeting minutes of May 28, 2014 and May 27, 2015.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for all those in favor to say aye.

Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**2. APPROVAL TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR TWO FIXED ROUTE SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Josh Rickman, Manager of Planning & Operations, reported on the proposed route changes and stated the following:

Both of these changes will require public hearing. The public hearings will be held in the communities where the proposed changes will take place. Meeting notices will be provided a minimum of two weeks before the meeting takes place. PVTA will disseminate the information on

the website, on board vehicles and will provide the information to local media. All public hearing comments and transcripts will be provided to the Advisory Board before a final decision is made.

**M40 Saturday Service Change:** The M40 is an express bus that provides direct service from Smith College, Downtown Northampton, Sheldon Field, Hampshire Mall, and the Haigis Mall. Due to increasing westbound traffic volumes on Route 9, the M40 has been challenged to remain on schedule throughout the Saturday service day. This results in the M40 running upwards of 20 minutes behind schedule, which produces an unreliable service for the public. The PVRTA has recommended eliminating two runs and adding time to the remaining eight runs on the day to remain on time. The running times or round trip time will go from 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes. This will result in a reliable schedule for the public.

The X98 provides cross town service in Northampton connecting, the Salvo House, Northampton Senior Center, Downtown Northampton, Northampton Survival Center, YMCA, Hampshire Plaza and River Valley Market. The route operates from 9:00AM to 7:00PM Monday through Saturday. The X98 has not attained the minimum performance guidelines prescribed through PVRTA's service guidelines since its inception. When implementing new service, it often takes more than one year to attract a ridership base. The 17 months of ridership that has been analyzed has shown a minimal level of passenger utilization.

The PVRTA is recommending changing the departure time of the X98 to 35 past the hour to induce more ridership to Hampshire Plaza. Currently, the R44 provides service from downtown Northampton to Hampshire Plaza on the hour. Providing services on the hour and thirty five past the hour will provide more options for downtown residents traveling to the Hampshire Plaza Monday through Saturday.

Brian O'Leary stated that the times should be on the hour of the fifteen at the Hampshire mall.

Josh Rickman stated we can certainly do that.

Chairman O'Leary asked if the Committee had any other questions or comments.

Hearing none. Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to recommend approving holding public hearings on the M40 and X98 to the full board.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded (Miller/Burns) to recommend approving holding public hearings on the M40 and X98 to the full board.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for all those in favor to say aye.

Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

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

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Advisory Board adjourned (Burke/Ishler) at 2:59 P.M.

**A TRUE RECORD**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**BRANDY LAMOUR**

Documents filed with Route Committee Meeting packet:

- Proposed Route Changes
- May 28, 2014 Route Committee Minutes
- May 27, 2015 Route Committee Minutes

**MINUTES APPROVED JUNE 29, 2016**