

**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
ROUTE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 22, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Route Committee of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 1:00 PM remotely in accordance with the Governor's State of Emergency Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 20, relieving from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, permitting a public body to allow remote participation by all members.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members: Brian O'Leary, Belchertown; Peter Miller, Westfield; J.M. Sorrell, Williamsburg;

NOT PRESENT: N/A

A quorum being present, Chairman of the Route Committee, Brian O'Leary called the remote meeting of the Route Committee to order at 1:15 P.M.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2019.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Miller/Sorrell) to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2019.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

J.M. Sorrell: Yes

Peter Miller: Yes

Brian O'Leary: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

4. NORTHAMPTON SENIOR SHUTTLE MICROTRANSIT PILOT

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations, reported the following on the Northampton Senior Shuttle Microtransit Pilot:

To support the Northampton Council Aging during the pandemic, PVTA is providing a modified “shuttle” type service to replace service that was being provided by the Northampton Council on Aging.

PVTA’s modified “shuttle” service provides service in Northampton to seniors aged 60 and older to access shopping trips, medical appointments, etc. within Northampton city limits. The fare is \$1.00 each way, the same as charged by the Northampton Council on Aging.

As part of this program, PVTA is testing demand response same day service for Northampton seniors between 7:30am and 3:30pm, Monday through Friday. This service will be provided by PVTA’s Paratransit Operator, National Express Transit (NEXT). NEXT will stage two Paratransit vehicles in the area to be available during the hours of service. The Survival Center Shuttle will be used as a backup if an additional vehicle is needed.

This Microtransit pilot service began on Monday and will be more broadly advertised for October 1, 2020.

5. SERVICE UPDATE

Paul Burns reported the following:

R14: The R14’s new schedule/ route changes took effect on August 30, 2020. The new configuration provides more frequent service to Pheasant Hills in Feeding Hills with slightly less frequent service to the Maple High Street neighborhood. The new route provides both inbound and outbound service using Springfield Street in Agawam and Feeding Hills instead of the previous configuration, where service to Agawam used North Street and service to Springfield traveled along Springfield Street.

G1: The weekday G1 timetable has been revised to provide similar service to what is currently being provided, despite the loss of discretionary grant funding for additional vehicles on this route. We continue to review the G1 for changes that will improve efficiency. Rider and driver surveys were conducted in July and several scenarios are being analyzed with responses collected to better improve the route.

10s: The 10s has been eliminated for the fall semester. The ‘Weekday No School’ Schedule will be used throughout the fall semester to replace the service that would have been provided by the 10s. Westfield State University and PVTA continue to discuss options for the spring semester. The OWL shuttle continues to operate on campus.

R10: The R10 will also need to be examined in the near future due to the potential elimination of service on East Mountain Road. As PVTA continues to replace aging vehicles, our newer vehicles are too tall to access East Mountain Road due to the low railroad bridge in that area. We are exploring several options including in elimination of these stops and providing shuttle service from East Mountain Road to R10 connections. We have reached out to administration at Western Mass Hospital for their input.

G3: In response to rider feedback, weekday departures from Union Station as well as Norfolk/Westford have been adjusted to ensure more efficient transfers.

P11: The P11 will not operate during Holyoke Community College’s fall semester.

B43: Service on the B43 has been reduced slightly with the last run departing from Amherst College for the garage at 11:30pm Monday through Friday, 11:40pm on Saturdays and 10:10pm on Sundays.

UMass Area routes: Most UMass area routes are operating although most schedules have been adjusted to reflect the current operating environment due to Covid-19. Service on the 39 and 39E has been suspended for the fall semester.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

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

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to adjourn.

MOTION: Moved and seconded (Miller/Sorrell) to adjourn.

Chairman O'Leary asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

J.M. Sorrell: Yes

Peter Miller: Yes

Brian O'Leary: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

The meeting of the PVRTA Route Committee adjourned at 1:36 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST:


BRANDY PELLETIER

Documents filed with Route Committee meeting packet:

- September 25, 2019 Route Committee Minutes

Minutes Approved: January 15, 2021