

**PVTA  
Pioneer  
Valley  
Transit  
Authority**

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**MINUTES OF PVTA'S  
ROUTE COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 16, 2016**

The Route Committee meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 11:30 A.M. at the PVTA.

**PRESENT:**

Members: Brian O'Leary, Belchertown; Paul Burns, Palmer; Peter Miller, Westfield;  
Others: Marilyn Ishler, South Hadley; Mary MacInnes, PVTA; Brandy Pelletier, PVTA;  
Josh Rickman, PVTA; David Elvin, PVPC;

**NOT PRESENT:**

Jim Czach, West Springfield; Nancy Talbot, Ware;

A quorum being present, Chairman of the Route Committee, Brian O'Leary called the meeting to order at 11:44 A.M.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to approve the meeting minutes of June 29, 2016.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded (Miller/Burns) to approve the meeting minutes of June 29, 2016.

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 OF SERVICE CHANGES: X98 & TIGER TROLLEY**

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

PVTA is proposing that all X98 route Northampton Cross-town trips begin 30 minutes later than currently scheduled. This means there will be a bus every 30 minutes (either the X98 or R44) from the Academy of Music/Masonic St to Stop & Shop and Hampshire Plaza (instead of these two buses leaving at the same time every 60 minutes) from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. No service reduction is proposed. Public hearing for this proposed change was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 4:30-5:30 PM at the City Council Chambers in Northampton.

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

Hearing none. Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to recommend adoption of the X98 changes to the full board.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded (Burns/Miller) to recommend adoption of the X98 changes 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.

To improve the availability of service on the Tiger Trolley, PVRTA is proposing that this bus travel from South Hadley to the Holyoke Transportation Center via the Route 116 Bridge and Lyman Street, rather than the Route 202 Bridge as it does currently. All existing stops in South Hadley will continue to be served and new stops on Lyman Street will be available. Also, the South Hadley Public Library will be re-designated a Transit Access Point (TAP), which requires the traveler to call 413-285-8195 between 9:00 AM and 4:45 PM to request pick up. No service reduction is proposed. A public hearing for this proposed change was held at the South Hadley Public Library on Thursday, October 6, 2016 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Tiger Trolley was introduced to service in August of 2014. The purpose of this shuttle is to provide access from downtown Holyoke to housing, commercial, and other destinations in South Hadley.

The Tiger Trolley is also a pilot project for the PVRTA, as it operates as a "flex" route. The Tiger Trolley "flexes" to serve designated Transit Access Points (TAP) which are off route. These TAPs include Lathrop Village (residential area), United Methodist Church, Raymond Center (Medical facility), and the Senior Center. Individuals can be picked up at a TAP by calling PVRTA at least a half hour before the bus they want to use departs from the Holyoke Transportation Center or up to 7 days in advance.

The Tiger Trolley is considered a community circulator. This means that the route should transport a minimum of 5 passengers per revenue hour. During the 22 months of operation, the Tiger Trolley has not surpassed 3.4 passengers per revenue hour.

This proposal recommends changing the Tiger Trolley's route to provide better access for Holyoke residents to increase overall ridership to minimum standards. Currently, the Tiger Trolley uses the Mueller Bridge (Route 202) to connect to South Hadley. The original intent of this route was to serve Lathrop Village, as well as provide direct service to the South Hadley Public Library. However, there has been very little ridership from the Lathrop Village complex. The proposal will instead route the Tiger Trolley through the Flats in Holyoke on Lyman Street and use the Vietnam Memorial Bridge (Route 116) into South Hadley.

Chairman O'Leary asked if the Committee had any questions or comments on the Tiger Trolley proposal.

Hearing none. Chairman O'Leary asked for a motion from the Route Committee to recommend adoption of the Tiger Trolley changes to the full board.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded (Burns/Miller) to recommend adoption of the Tiger Trolley changes 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. OTHER BUSINESS**


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

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Route Committee adjourned (Burns/Miller) at 11:51 P.M.

**A TRUE RECORD**

ATTEST:



**BRANDY PELLETIER**

Documents filed with Route Committee Meeting packet:

- X98 Proposed Route Changes
- Tiger Trolley Proposed Route Changes
- June 29, 2016 Route Committee Minutes

**MINUTES APPROVED 5-24-17**

