



## **PVTA HOLDS PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES AND FARE INCREASES**

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Springfield, Mass. – The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) will be holding public hearings and outreach sessions to receive comments on the proposed service changes and fare increases that would go into effect starting July 1, 2018.

PVTA was advised by MassDOT to expect level funding of the statewide regional transit authorities allocation at the FY15 level of approximately \$80.4 million (PVTA's share 29%). With level funding, PVTA is facing an operating budget deficit of \$3.1 million for the coming fiscal year FY19 and is unable to maintain service levels that are so important to our riders.

PVTA has been proactive meeting with regional stakeholders and the legislative delegation to discuss funding options. "I hope that by continuing to share information early and often, we can work together as advocates to secure the level of public transportation funding that PVTA and all the Massachusetts regional transit authorities need to service our customers efficiently and equitably" said Sandra Sheehan, PVTA Administrator.

PVTA's Advisory Board authorized holding public hearings to receive comments on the proposed service and fare changes at their Board meeting held on January 24th. The proposed service changes are system wide and include reducing evening service (after 6:00 PM) on most routes; reducing service on non-academic weekdays in the UMass-Amherst area; eliminating service on non-academic Sundays in the UMass-Amherst area; restructuring low-performing routes in Easthampton, Ware, Palmer, and Holyoke; eliminating poor-performing routes; reducing service on all routes that operate on Saturdays to match the level of service operated on that route on Sundays; and reducing service on routes that operate on holidays to match existing Sunday levels of service.

The proposed fare increase would raise fares and pass prices by 25% and charge a \$5.00 premium fare for ADA and senior van trips that travel outside of the federally required  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile distance from a bus route. Additionally, applying a 5% per year fare increase to be implemented every three years. PVTA has not had a fare increase in almost a decade. The last fare increase was in 2008. A fare increase was proposed in 2012, but did not pass.

Detailed information on the proposed service changes and the proposed fare increases are available at [www.pvta.com](http://www.pvta.com). All public comments will be given to PVTA's Advisory Board for a final decision to be made in April.

Public comments may be submitted until March 14, 2018:

In person: Attend a public hearing or outreach session  
By mail: Send letter to: PVTA Administrator, 2808 Main St. Springfield, MA 01107  
By email: [comments@pvta.com](mailto:comments@pvta.com)  
By phone: Call (413) 732-6248 x239 and leave up to a 3-minute recorded message  
Online: Visit [www.pvta.com](http://www.pvta.com) and complete the comment form

Public hearings have been scheduled for:

- Monday, February 26, 2018, 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM and 4:00PM - 5:30 PM at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission located at 60 Congress Street in Springfield.
- Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM and 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at the Northampton City Council Chambers located at 212 Main Street, Northampton.
- Thursday, March 1, 2018, 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM at UMass Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center located at 1 Campus Center Way, Room 163C (lower level), UMass Amherst.
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM at Amherst Bangs Community Center located at 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst.
- Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM at the Holyoke Transportation Center located at 206 Maple Street, Room 104, Holyoke.
- Thursday, March 8, 2018, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM at the American International College (AIC), Karen Sprague Center West Wing located at 1000 State Street, Springfield
- Monday, March 12, 2018, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM at the Chicopee Public Library located at 449 Front Street, Chicopee

Outreach Sessions:

- Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon at the Palmer Town Hall located at 4417 Main Street, Palmer
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM at the Palmer Library located at 1455 North Main Street, Palmer
- Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Wilbraham Senior Center located at 45 Post Office Park, #4502, Wilbraham
- Friday, February 23, 2018, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Holyoke Transportation Center lobby located at 206 Maple Street, Holyoke
- Monday, February 26, 2018, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Springfield Union Station located at 55 Frank B. Murray Street, Springfield
- Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Springfield Union Station located at 55 Frank B. Murray Street, Springfield
- Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Westfield Olver Transit Pavilion located at the Corner of Elm and Arnold Streets, Westfield
- Monday, March 5, 2018, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center located at 954 Main St., Agawam

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## About the PVTA

The PVTA is the largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts with 188 buses, 141 vans and 24 participating member communities. Additional information about the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority may be found at [www.pvta.com](http://www.pvta.com) or by calling 1-877-779-7882.