



Springfield Bus Stop Consolidation Plan

The Springfield Bus Stop Consolidation Plan has two important overall purposes. The first is to improve bus service for PVTA riders in the City of Springfield by optimizing the distances between bus stops and their proximity to riders' major origins and destinations. The second is to benefit Springfield neighborhoods by improving on-street conditions and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles by reducing the number of times buses pull into/out of stops—as well as increasing curb space that is available for on-street parking.

In Springfield today there are 814 bus stops—nearly twice as many as are needed. On some city streets, stops are only 400 feet apart (10 bus lengths). This is far more than other cities in the PVTA region and the Northeast, which typically have 4 or fewer stops per mile (about every 1,300 feet), depending on residential and commercial density. This plan would reduce the number of bus stops from 814 to approximately 442 (45.7%). However, the vast majority of bus riders (84.5%, or less than 1 in 6 customers) will not be affected because the most popular and well-used bus stops will be retained.

Appropriate spacing between bus stops will have several important benefits:

PVTA Rider Benefits

- Reduce rider frustration with frequent stops and starts to pick up passengers.
- Improve schedule reliability, building rider confidence and willingness to ride more often.
- Allow more funds to be allocated for maintenance and amenities (on a per stop basis), such as shelters, benches, and signage. Improve ADA accommodations at the majority of stops

Neighborhood Benefits

- Improve bicycle safety by reducing the number of times that buses pull into/out of traffic.
- Reduce delays and frustration for drivers and delivery vehicles traveling behind buses.
- Each stop that is eliminated will free up 2-3 on-street parking spaces. With approximately 400 bus stops recommended for consolidation, this represents 800-1,000 new on-street spaces citywide.
- It will relocate stops where there are currently pedestrian and traffic safety concerns.
- Improves bus fuel economy and reduces emissions.

This plan proposes average bus stop spacing of 4 stops per mile (every 1,300 feet) in Springfield. This spacing is more consistent with PVTA's stop spacing in other cities of the region, as well as transit industry standards for cities of Springfield's size. Most importantly, this plan prioritizes the retention of stops with high ridership. This means that the majority of PVTA customers in Springfield will be able to continue using the same bus stops that they do today. And PVTA customers who do need to use a new bus stop will be no more than an average 500-750 feet from the stop they use today.

If you are interested in learning more about this process please visit the PVTA website at: PVTA.com. There you will find the full report as well as a link to an online map showing which stops are proposed to be retained and which stops will be consolidated. Individuals can comment on the website, or they can mail comments to 2808 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107 (ATTN: Josh Rickman).