



Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
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Press Release
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“PVTA AWARDED AARP GRANT FOR NEW BENCHES IN SPRINGFIELD”

SPRINGFIELD, MA - On July 18th, AARP announced the awardees for its 2018 AARP Community Challenge grant program. The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority is one of 129 awardees for these “quick action” grants, helping communities make immediate improvements and jumpstart long-term progress to support residents of all ages. The PVTA grant will allow the Authority to site and install at least ten benches at key transit stops around the City of Springfield based on public input and in coordination with city staff.

“Pioneer Valley Transit Authority is very thankful to our partners in this grant application; The Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts and the City of Springfield. PVTA plans to begin work on this project immediately to ensure the public can enjoy the new bus stop amenities as soon as possible” says Brandy Pelletier, PVTA Media Relations.

Over the years at public hearings, meetings, and community workshops, a lack of benches in the City of Springfield has been cited as a key area of concern. This is especially problematic for seniors and people with disabilities who are in particular need of places to rest while waiting for the next bus. This grant award responds directly to this desire expressed by the public. A total of \$1.3 million is to be distributed to fund 129 projects across the country, helping communities make immediate improvements and jumpstart long-term progress to support residents of all ages. Nearly 1,600 applications were received from non-profits and government entities for the program, now in its second year. The full list of grantees can be found at www.aarp.org/communitychallenge.

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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 or by calling 1-877-779-7882.