Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
Mason Square Neighborhood Plan
July 19, 2023
Largest Regional Transit Authority in MA

Tier I Transit System, fixed route and demand response service

Serve 24 Communities, total population of 631,761

Cover 627 square miles – from urban centers to rural communities. 72% of service area is considered suburban or rural.

189 Buses and 135 Vans

38 Transit Routes and three community shuttles
GENERAL INFORMATION

- 11.5 Million trips in FY19
- 4 Million trips in FY21
- 8.3 Million trips in FY20
- 6.2 Million trips in FY22

- Funded with State, Federal, Local and Farebox funds
  - 50% State Contract Assistance
  - 14% Federal Grants
  - 18% Local Assessments
  - 15% Farebox Revenue

- FY23 Budget $54.5M
- FY24 Budget $55.3M
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 25% of PVTA trips are taking passengers to work
- 25% of PVTA trips are for education
- 1 in 9 trips are for shopping
- 1 in 10 trips are for medical appointments
- 60% of riders are low income
- 60% of riders are people of color
- 70% of riders have no other way to make their trip
Mason Square Neighborhood
Recommendations

- Passenger Waiting Shelters
- Service Expansion
  - Expand bus service including new routes into neighborhoods,
  - Expanded accessibility, increased frequency/reliability, &
  - More options like mini-buses, vans, shuttles.
- PVTA bus pass program.
- City support PVTA to research and consider providing public transit at no direct cost to the user (as has been done in Lawrence, MA).
- Bus Rapid Transit along State Street.
- Trolley Line at historical sites in Mason Square/MHSC (i.e., Underground Railroad, Abolitionist Tour, museums, parks).
Bus Stops and Shelters

Red Dots = Bus Stops

Green Dots = Shelters