

**PROPOSAL TO MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION:
PVTA LATE NITE/EARLY MORNING SERVICE FOR MGM EMPLOYEES**

Public transportation is likely to be a key ingredient in MGM's success in Springfield. In the city, many hospitality sector workers already depend on PVTA for their commutes – because it helps them avoid parking costs, and perhaps allows their family to own one less car.

MGM has told PVTA that they are committed to hiring one-third of its estimated workforce from the City of Springfield – as many as 1,000 employees. Up to 600 of them will likely have jobs with wages at the level where one would expect they will be public transportation riders. And MGM has estimated that up to 300 them will need to arrive at work, or will end their shifts, between 8:00PM and 8:00AM.

But – PVTA does not have the budget to operate in those late evening and early morning hours. Most bus lines stop running on weekdays in downtown by about 8:00PM, and the last buses leave Union Station about 9:00PM. In the morning, the first buses do not arrive in downtown until 6:00AM — and full service doesn't really get going until 6:30 or 7:00AM. Plus, PVTA estimates that about half of its riders usually transfer to connecting routes to reach more outlying areas of Springfield – and those connecting routes travel less often and stop running earlier.

The situation on the weekends will be even more difficult for a potential worker, because PVTA's downtown Springfield bus lines stop by 7:00 or 8:00PM. On Sundays, service frequency is half of what it is on weekdays. Unfortunately, weekends are when MGM is likely to be experiencing heavy demand and will need full staffing.

So for a new MGM worker who needs to get to or from work by bus anytime between 10:00PM and 6:30AM there are very few options on weekdays—and even fewer on weekends. This will directly affect the ability of many Springfield residents to accept employment at MGM – potentially hundreds of residents.

PVTA has been talking with MGM in recent months to better understand their workforce commuting needs. And PVTA believes that they can make more public transportation available to a significant number of MGM workers by strategically extending the span of service on weekdays and weekends. This would happen on certain “Tier 1” trunk routes through downtown Springfield, in combination with extended spans of service on certain connecting routes to the outlying neighborhoods.

Using funds for additional PVTA service makes sense because the bus routes are already there, and they provide good service to residential areas where future employees are likely to live. It's simply a matter of running when future MGM employees will get to work—we don't have to create new routes and put in new stops.

Finally -- The funds in large part will be for bus drivers' salaries to operate the routes during the extended hours. Drivers for the most part spend their salaries locally – and some of them might even spend some of their additional earnings at MGM itself.