



# 19

COMMUNITY  
MITIGATION  
FUND

## APPENDIX H

***Transit Project(s) of Regional Significance Grant Application ("TPRS")***  
***BD-19-1068-1068C-1068L- 33629***

***Please complete the entire Application.***

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | <u>Pioneer Valley Transit Authority</u><br><b>NAME OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENT ENTITY/DISTRICT</b>  |
| 2. | <u>Sandra Sheehan, Administrator</u><br><b>NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO COMMIT FUNDS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY</b>   |
| 3. | <u>2808 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107</u><br><b>ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO COMMIT FUNDS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY</b>  |
| 4. | <u>413-732-6248 x216 <a href="mailto:ssheehan@pvta.com">ssheehan@pvta.com</a></u><br><b>PHONE # AND EMAIL ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO COMMIT FUNDS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY</b> |
| 5. | <u>Sandra Sheehan, Administrator</u><br><b>NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACT MANAGER RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING OF FUNDS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY</b>  |
| 6. | <u>2808 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107</u><br><b>ADDRESS OF CONTRACT MANAGER RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING OF FUNDS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY</b>   |
| 7. | <u>413-732-6248 x216 <a href="mailto:ssheehan@pvta.com">ssheehan@pvta.com</a></u><br><b>PHONE # AND EMAIL ADDRESS OF CONTRACT MANAGER ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY</b>                      |
| 8. | <u>MGM Springfield</u><br><b>NAME OF GAMING LICENSEE</b>   |

## 1. IMPACT DESCRIPTION

Please describe in detail the regional impact or potential regional impact that is attributed to the construction or operation of a gaming facility that may be remediated by the proposed transit project of regional significance. Please provide support for the determination that the construction or operation of the gaming facility caused, is causing or otherwise may cause the impact.

The MGM Springfield Casino is a major generator of visitors for the City of Springfield. This was anticipated, and as a result MGM Springfield and the City of Springfield negotiated a downtown circulator trolley to accommodate tourists, employees, and residents traveling to the casino (the service is called "The Loop").

There are multiple policies at the state level to encourage transit usage, including the Global Warming Solutions Act and the mode shift goal at MassDOT. To that end, the Final Environmental Impact Report for MGM Springfield noted on pages 16 – 18 that MGM Springfield committed to funding a downtown circulator trolley to promote using transit to access the casino. All PVTA buses are bike rack equipped, so this service also promotes biking in combination with transit use.

Currently, The Loop only operates five days per week (Wednesday through Sunday). PVTA believes that the inconsistent schedule is hurting ridership potential, and is requesting funding to make it a 7-day-per-week service. Given the fact that MGM attracted 1 million visitors in its first six weeks, we feel that there is a large unmet need for additional mobility options in downtown Springfield.

PVTA is also requesting funding to expand service on The Loop to the hotels in West Springfield. The Route 5 corridor in West Springfield contains many hotels that visitors stay in when coming to the region. This service would improve access for visitors going to downtown Springfield.

PVTA is also working with the City of Springfield and MGM to enhance its marketing of The Loop service, as well as cross-promotional opportunities with other attractions in downtown Springfield. Altogether, PVTA expects that this package of enhancements will significantly boost mobility to and from MGM Springfield, as well as general access to downtown Springfield.

## 2. PROPOSED MITIGATION (Please attach additional sheets/supplemental materials if necessary.)

- a) Please describe how you propose to use to expand regional transit connections to the gaming facility using CMF Funds.

PVTA proposes to expand its downtown circulator service, The Loop, to 7 days per week. The Loop service, which is funded through the Host Community Agreement, currently funds 5 days of service (Wednesday through Sunday). The Loop, the schedule for which can be found in the attached document



"Relevant Links\_PVTA.docx", serves key destinations in Springfield's downtown, including the newly renovated Union Station, MGM, Springfield Museums (Quadrangle), and the Basketball Hall of Fame.

PVTA also proposes to add an extension to its current Loop service into West Springfield. This service would provide a connection to MGM and Union Station from the hotels that are located along Route 5 in West Springfield. This will enhance access to the MGM gaming facility, as well as other visitor attractions in downtown Springfield. Attached to this application is a map showing the hotels that would be served, as well as existing transit service (P20) and the proposed Loop expansion (see West Springfield Hotels.pdf). You can find the proposed routing in the attached document, "Relevant Links\_PVTA.docx".

The connection to Union Station in particular makes this is a regionally significant transit service, as that is the central hub for Springfield-area transit. Service from Westfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, and numerous other surrounding communities emanates from Union Station. Commuter Rail service operated by CTRail also operates out of Union Station.

**b) Please describe how the mitigation request will address the specific impact indicated.**

As MGM Springfield continues to grow its visitor base, its employee base, and its regional significance as a destination for leisure and entertainment, there will be enhanced need for mobility options for a variety of visitors and residents. Some people may not be able to drive themselves, or may choose not to drive. While the current Loop service meets some of that need Wednesday through Sunday, there is no reason to believe that there is any less need Monday and Tuesday. Indeed, visitors and residents may still want to visit the restaurants or other attractions at MGM Springfield for a Monday night dinner or movie.

Furthermore, the expansion of service into West Springfield will address the direct service needed between MGM Springfield and regionally significant hotels. This service, which is proposed for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, will provide visitors with an easy, environmentally friendly way to travel to downtown Springfield and MGM.

**3. CONNECTION TO GAMING FACILITY**

**Please provide specificity/evidence that the requested funds will be used to address issues or impacts directly related to the gaming facility.**

As noted, there were 1 million visitors to MGM Springfield in its first six weeks in operation. Furthermore, there are hundreds of employees working at MGM Springfield. This generates additional traffic congestion, greenhouse gas and other emissions, as well as creating a new regionally significant destination. The Loop service, which operates fare-free and uses battery-electric operated buses, addresses the impacts from the MGM Springfield casino. Expanding The Loop will allow these benefits to be more fully felt.

**4. BUDGET & TIMELINE**

**a) Please identify the amount of funding requested.**

PVTA is requesting \$224,673.64 to fund the expansion of The Loop service.

**b) Please provide documentation (e.g. - invoices, proposals, estimates, etc.) adequate for the Commission to ensure that the funds will be used for the cost of the transit project of regional significance.**

See attached budget. All cost estimates were provided by PVTA operators.

**c) Please provide the estimate and percentage of the costs projected to be funded from other federal, state, local, private contributions or unspent CMF Reserves. (Applicants may include contributions from gaming licensees and private contributions.) Please provide a detailed itemized estimate for each type of funding.**

The current Loop service, which operates Wednesday through Sunday, is funded through the Host Community Agreement. That agreement funds the full cost of the service, with a contract valued at \$199,389.

**d) Please indicate, through a commitment letter or otherwise, how such other funding will be available for the project. In the absence of a final commitment to such funding, please provide detail on any process needed to secure any non-CMF funding.**

A commitment letter is attached to this application.

**e) Please include a detailed timetable for the TPRS project, including but not limited to, the timetable for planning, for securing additional funds and the timetable to implement the TPRS.**

The project timeline is attached to this application.



**5. MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT**

Please describe how you propose to measure the impact of your program including indicators proposed to measure results.

PVTA includes all of its routes into its performance measurement system. Performance measures include the following:

- Trips per revenue hour
- Schedule adherence (on-time performance)
- Title VI demographic analysis (minority and low-income access)

**6. IMPACT CONTROLS/ADMINISTRATION OF IMPACT FUNDS**

Please provide detail regarding the controls that will be used to ensure that funds will only be used to address the specific impact. If non-governmental entities will receive any funds, please describe what reporting will be required and how the applicant will remedy any misuse of funds.

The proposed Loop expansion will only be undertaken if this funding is received. There are no funds in the upcoming budget to provide the services outlined in this proposal. If awarded, the funds will be received into a specific GL account that separates them out from other funding and will only be used to operate the service as proposed.

**7. CONSULTATION WITH MASSDOT / REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY (RTA) / REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (RPA) AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES**

Please provide details about the Applicant's consultation with MassDOT, the Regional Transit Agency/MBTA and the Regional Planning Agency serving the community, and nearby communities to determine the potential for cooperative regional efforts regarding planning activities.

PVTA works closely with MassDOT, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), the City of Springfield, and MGM Springfield to provide its current Loop service. PVTA recently presented at MassDOT's Moving Together conference on The Loop service. Further, attached to this application are letters of support from PVPC, the City of Springfield, the Town of West Springfield and MGM Springfield. PVTA has developed its Loop service in close consultation with the aforementioned entities.

**8. RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM HOST OR SURROUNDING COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS**

Please describe and include excerpts from any relevant sections of any Host or Surrounding Community Agreement. Please explain how this impact was either anticipated or not anticipated in that Agreement.

In the Host Community Agreement Exhibits, page E-2, it is stated that MGM Springfield will support creation of a trolley in downtown Springfield to service multiple attractions in the city. Our proposal will expand the currently offered service to seven days per week, as well as expand the geographic scope of the service to include visitors staying in West Springfield.

**CERTIFICATION BY MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY**

On behalf of the aforementioned municipality/governmental entity I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this Application.



Signature of Responsible Municipal  
Official/Governmental Entity

2/1/19  
Date