

## Sunset Advisory Commission Board and Commission Review

### *Public Transit Advisory Council*

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

The Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC), (24 V.S.A. § 5084) meets four times per year. The Council met on the following dates over the past two fiscal years:

September 20, 2018  
June 21, 2018  
March 15, 2018  
December 21, 2017  
September 21, 2017  
June 15, 2017  
March 16, 2017  
December 15, 2016  
September 22, 2016

Agendas and meeting minutes are available at the PTAC webpage maintained by the Public Transit Program Staff at VTrans. See: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/boards-councils/ptac>

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

- (1) Michele Boomhower, (AOT Secretary's Designee)
- (2) Elaine Haytko, (Executive Director of the Vermont Public Transit Association (VPTA))
- (3) Mary Grant - RCT, Jim Moulton - ACTR/STSI, Donna Baker – GMCN (Three representatives of VPTA)
- (4) Mark Sousa, Green Mountain Transit, General Manager (Representative of GMT, formerly CCTA)
- (5) Jamie Fisher (AHS Secretary's Designee)

- (6) Michael Harrington (Commissioner of Labor's Designee)
- (7) Richard Amore (ACCD Secretary's Designee)
- (8) Peter Johnke, Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)
- (9) Lee Cattaneo, Council of Vermont Elders (COVE)
- (10) John Sharrow (Representing private bus and taxi services)
- (11) Chip Desautels, Premier Coach (Representing Vermont intercity bus carriers)
- (12) A representative of Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VACANT)
- (13) Meredith Birkett, Johnson Village Manager (Representing Vermont League of Cities and Towns)
- (14) Bethany Whitaker (A citizen appointed by the Governor)
- (15) Senator Jane Kitchel, Caledonia (A member of the Senate)
- (16) Representative Mollie Burke, Windham (A member of the House of Representatives)

There are no term limits for any members.

The Governor appoints the citizen representative.

Per diems apply as follows:

"The legislative members of the Council shall be entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406. Members who are not State employees shall receive reimbursement of expenses and a per diem as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010."

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

The PTAC serves as an advisory group to the Agency of Transportation on all matters relating to public transit service as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 5088.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, that purpose is still needed. The Agency of Transportation regularly calls upon the PTAC to vet issues pertaining to public transportation, including serving as a sounding board for updates of the Vermont Public Transit Policy Plan, the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, and other fundamental policy documents guiding the provision of public services in Vermont.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The PTAC is an exemplary advisory group. The members are passionate, knowledgeable, and participate regularly as shown by the attendance at the quarterly meetings. The meeting minutes also speak to the importance of the issues discussed and the quality of the discourse.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the

purpose was executed in a different manner?

This forum has served well to meet its mission, membership has been stable, and the Agency of Transportation, clients of public transit, and citizens of Vermont are well-served by the PTAC. There is unlikely to be a more efficient or effective means by which to achieve the same level of interdisciplinary communication than a regular forum such as the PTAC.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

The PTAC serves a very specific purpose, and is a unique combination of transportation providers, human service organizations, state agencies, legislators, and advocates. There are no other boards or commissions in the state quite like the PTAC that would have the same impact as an advisory group to the Agency of Transportation.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes. The Public Transit Advisory Council language in 24 V.S.A. § 5084 still accurately reflects the activities of the council.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

Staffing of the PTAC is incorporated into the regular activities of the Agency of Transportation Public Transit Program. The Public Transit Administrator prepares the agenda and associated materials and distributes them in advance of the meetings. Meeting minutes are produced by a contracted professional and are an eligible program administration expense covered by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

The Public Transit Advisory Council is not required by law to prepare any reports or studies.