

## MEETING WITH MWRTA, 10/29/18

### Minutes

Present: Sudbury: Debra Galloway, Carmen Gentile, Alice Sapienza; MWRTA: Ed Carr, Dan Fitch, Sara Scully, Eva Willen

Objective: The goal of this meeting was to start a conversation with MWRTA about (1) micro-transit in general, and (2) specifically a potential collaboration between Sudbury and MWRTA in a TransLoc pilot.

Background: After brief introductions, Alice reviewed the chronology of a 6-town CrossTown Connect initiative submitted to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) in March 2018 (a copy of the proposal was distributed). In September 2018, the MAPC described the likely technical assistance, including a \$10,000 contribution from the Minuteman Area Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC).

Alice also described conversations that several CTC members had with area taxi companies (JFK and Tommie's) as well as Dee Bus company. In addition, these same members engaged in a number of conversations with TransLoc representative (Peter Mazzoli), between April and September 2018, in terms of the software platform the company uses to simulate and plan the execution of pilot transit services for RTAs across the country. The Greater Attleboro/Taunton RTA (GATRA) signed a contract with TransLoc for a pilot (9/18), and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has expressed interest in a possible pilot.

As part of the discussion about the TransLoc simulation, partnerships with the TNCs were also mentioned (e.g., MBTA RIDE partnerships with Uber, Lyft, and Curb; the GATRA partnership with Uber in a Community Accessing Rides [CAR] pilot).

Need for transportation in Sudbury: Without going into extensive detail, Debra and Alice summarized data from surveys and other means that highlight growth of residents 55 years and older, as well as growth of residents with limited/fragile economic means. A handout with details was provided. The Sudbury assistant town planner had devised a GIS map of 55+ year residents and streets, illustrating both the density of such residents along Route 20 and the existence of a number of "naturally occurring retirement neighborhoods."

Three housing developments that are relevant to the conversation are Meadow Brook/Avalon (almost completely built out), The Coolidge (planned additional building), and Quarry North (near-future development on Route 117). The rapid increase in affordable housing in town raises the issue of transportation to employment, and Alice mentioned the role of MassBizWorks (especially the Framingham office) in helping train and place people in manufacturing and related work in the area.

Sapienza, DBA  
29 October 2018

Potential TransLoc Pilot: Dan described the ongoing interest of MWRTA in microtransit, as well as the agency's work with ADEPT paratransit demand-response software. After Alice provided a summary of TransLoc pilot services and cost (a Ford subsidized cost of \$25,000, until 31 December 2018), Ed recommended that Dan and Alice (and other Sudbury Transportation Committee members as needed) work together to identify (1) documents illustrating Sudbury's transportation needs, (2) recent national studies of RTAs and microtransit, and (3) TransLoc materials that help explain the company's pilot offering.

Ed and the group discussed the need for towns to plan for sustainable transportation services by, for example, requiring developers to contribute annually to a transportation fund. In addition, he hoped that federal and state regulations governing public transit would be created, to ensure sustainable public transportation in the future. Other sources of revenue for local transportation might include area businesses, which could offer transit services to attract employees (and retain them) as well as provide evidence of carbon offsets by shared as opposed to individual commuting options. It should be noted that Juniper Networks currently does both (transportation is provided by CTC shuttles to/from commuter rail as well as to the facilities themselves).

Respectfully submitted: Alice Sapienza, DBA