



Town of Sudbury

<https://sudbury.ma.us/transportation/>

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

9:30 AM

DPW Engineering Room, 275 Old Lancaster Road

Core Members Present: Adam Duchesneau, Doug Frey, Debra Galloway, Sandy Lasky, Dan Nason, Alice Sapienza

Absent: Dan Carty, Charlie Dunn, Carmine Gentile, Police Chief Scott Nix, Bethany Hadvab

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Alice Sapienza convened the meeting at 9:36 AM.

Selection of Clerk

Alice volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative

In Dan Carty's absence, Alice reviewed the agenda and recommended addressing the action items before spending time on "brainstorming Transportation initiatives." The group agreed.

Updates

Community Compact Cabinet Grant. Alice stated that a workshop will be held on January 22 in Stow, to address starting a pilot. Travis Pollack from the MAPC will be there, as will Adam to represent Sudbury. There will be an update on Making the Connections pilots at the MAGIC meeting on January 29th in Acton, and Alice will have input to the presentation by Travis.

Adam said that the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) is still being reviewed by Sudbury leadership and counsel, and MAPC may help with moving this document along. He also noted that, after a time with no applicants, the firm of Nelson/Nygaard (a transportation consulting firm) has responded to the posting for a Program Manager of Making the Connections' pilots. And, Acton has put forward the option of using Austin Cyganiewicz as part-time Program Manager. Adam will respond to questions posed by Nelson/Nygaard and then set up an interview process.

Uber Agreement and Waiver. Adam is still pursuing town review of the Uber dashboard agreement and the waiver form (for data sharing) that will be part of the GO Sudbury! application. The next step will be a meeting that includes Andi Bailey from Uber to discuss these documents; then, we expect to sign and start the beta test officially.

WAV. There continues to be ongoing discussion and investigation of how Sudbury can ensure WAV options for the target group: people with a disability limiting driving. JFK Taxi owns and operates two WAV; the rate is \$50 per hour for a 3-hour minimum.

Debra reminded the group that MWRTA is considering exchanging an MV-1 WAV (smaller vehicle) for one of the larger Sudbury CoA vans. She will find out if MWRTA would allow Sudbury to engage a third-party to use and operate the MV-1, similar to Carlisle (which leased on MV-1 from LRTA and then contracted with a livery company in Lowell to use and operate the vehicle for Carlisle and other customers).

Go Sudbury Web Sign Up Walk-through. Sandy stated that we need to be clear in the application about current constraints, such as age limits for Uber (and, the current options for youth between 12-18 years, without an adult accompanying them). MWRTA vehicles do transport unaccompanied students 12-18 years, who must provide a valid school ID. No child under 12 years can ride without an adult (children under 6 ride free with an adult). Another constraint right now is availability of WAV.

Route 20 Shuttle and Meadow Walk Fixed Stop. Adam said that Beth Suedmeyer is following up on a fixed stop by Whole Foods in the Meadow Walk complex (this will be a sheltered spot). To be determined are parking areas for those who would drive to the stop and take the shuttle to Boston, as well as possible location for a fixed shelter stop on the opposite side of Route 20. Debra said that shuttle ridership has grown slightly and slowly, and that MWRTA is committed to the service but has not yet moved ahead with better communications as well as signage for stops along the way in Sudbury.

Brainstorm: Transportation Committee's Future Initiatives

Although the Sudbury pilot has yet to start, and its full enrollment may be some months away, Dan Carty had asked the group to think about an agenda for the future. Alice provided a short handout to the committee (dated 1.17.20) consisting of the committee charter and some illustrations of transportation responses to the Livable Sudbury report.

Sandy read aloud the charter items, and then noted that the Master Plan meeting on transportation had resulted in strong recommendations to finish the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Adam explained that this project was on track. Because it will be funded by state and federal monies, completion is not expected until 2022. Sandy continued with related issues for the committee, including safety for walking and for biking along Sudbury streets. Dan Nason brought up the possible liability of the town for ADA accessibility and the cost of both improving sidewalks and access to town buildings for residents using a wheelchair.

Alice noted the need in town for a more strategic approach to ensure the "sustained attractiveness of the town for business and residents" (committee charter), recommending creation of bike and walkways to places for shopping/eating. Although Route 20 is a state highway, there are other destinations around Sudbury, under "control" of the town, that could be better linked so that cars are not always necessary. Sandy emphasized the difficulty and safety concerns of walking/biking even along many town roads.

At the end of the discussion, the group concurred that a first priority for the committee is to ensure sustainability and ownership of transportation. We need a town staff person responsible for

transportation (as is the case in Lexington, Acton, Newton), and we need to be able to fund transportation services beyond grants. Acton has a transportation “levy” via real estate taxes, for example.

A second priority is to promote that strategic approach to development and to initiatives within developed areas that link commercial destinations with residents via non-driving networks. Adam described this as very similar to what Complete Streets seeks to support.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, February 5th, at 2 PM in the DPW/Engineering Conference room.

Adjournment

Debra moved to adjourn at 12:03 PM; Sandy seconded. Committee unanimously agreed.