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NEWS RELEASE

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Sudbury Transportation Committee Announces Start of Go Sudbury! Taxi Ride Program

Sudbury MA – The Sudbury Transportation Committee will begin offering a pilot grant-funded Taxi service with COVID-19 safety protocols in place beginning on September 14, 2020. The Town of Sudbury is working with Tommy's Taxi of Framingham and JFK Transportation Services, Inc., of Natick, to provide this service which includes sedans as well as wheelchair accessible vans.

Transportation will be provided for medical appointments, as well as employment and essential grocery shopping for older residents, veterans, residents with disabilities, and for financially vulnerable residents during this national emergency. Several new protocols are required for taxi drivers and riders to minimize the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Applicants for service must register by completing the online Registration form at ??????. Applicants who are not able to utilize the online form may register by contacting Ana Cristina Oliveira at 978-639-3268, or via email at oliveiraa@sudbury.ma.us. Applicants will be notified if further information is needed, or that their registration is complete. Further instructions will be provided on how to request a ride. Ride requests must be made 48 business hours in advance for dispatching purposes. For example, for a Tuesday ride at 1:00 PM, please call by Friday at 1:00 PM. If there is a Monday holiday, please call by Thursday at 1:00 PM for a Tuesday ride.

Both drivers and passengers will wear masks/facial coverings covering both nose and mouth and follow proper hygiene and social distancing guidelines. Taxis will be cleaned between riders and at the end of each work day. Additional protocols are in place and will be communicated to passengers prior to the use of transportation services. It is important to acknowledge that the

many safety protocols in place will minimize, but cannot eliminate, the risk of exposure to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

These special time-limited, grant-funded transportation services via taxi, will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

"We hope that this temporary program provides Sudbury's older residents, veterans, essential workers and residents with disabilities and financial need, a safe way to get to medical appointments, work and other essential destinations during this difficult time" stated Dan Carty, Sudbury Select Board Chair, as well as Chair of the Sudbury Transportation Committee.

For questions about the program, please contact Ana Cristina Oliveira, Outreach and Information Specialist at the Sudbury Senior Center at 978-639-3268 or <u>oliveiraa@sudbury.ma.us</u>.

The Sudbury Transportation Committee consists of members from: the Sudbury Select Board, Sudbury Council on Aging, Sudbury Commission on Disability, Sudbury Planning and Community Development Department, Sudbury Senior Center, Sudbury Department of Public Works, and the Livable Sudbury Ambassador and was established in September 2018 by the Town of Sudbury Select Board.

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