



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, November 13, 2020

10:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Sandy Lasky, Debra Galloway, Alice Sapienza, Doug Frey, Adam Duchesneau

Core Member Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Members Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian

Advisory Members Absent: Charlie Dunn, Scott Nix, Beth Suedmeyer, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Ellen Joachim

Guests: Linda Faust; Kay Bell

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 10:04 am following a voice roll call of attendees. Dan announced that this was a public meeting and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV for future viewing.

Selection of Clerk

Debra volunteered to take meeting minutes.

New MAPC Grant

Dan Carty thanked Alice Sapienza for her hard work in writing the new grant application for the new funding to the MAPC COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant. The grant application is due next Friday, November 20, 2020.

MPO Meeting Report

Dan Carty attended the MPO meeting yesterday and reported that Marah Holland talked about the COVID-19 Taxicab grant funding – current fund total is \$1 million, funding for the new grant cycle totals \$2.5 million. These funds are from the TNC fees added to TNC rides (such as Uber, Lyft). The MPO is focused on using the grants to assist in keeping the taxi companies working and relevant; 95% of the grant funds must go directly to the taxi companies for ride service costs.

MAPC Meeting Report

Alice attended the recent MAPC meeting. MAPC is supportive of the idea of Sudbury submitting a multi-community grant proposal. Alice has confirmed interest and participation in the grant proposal from three communities: Maynard, Stow and Concord. The Town of Hudson is still a possible additional partner. Working with a larger geographic area and larger population of riders will help us to better understand the need for wheelchair-accessible vehicles (WAV) in this program and may entice additional WAV providers to expand into the area.

A similar multi-community grant application is being proposed in western MA by the lead town of Egremont.

Alice has assisted and encouraged Tommy's Taxi, Inc. to apply for a Women's Business designation, thereby giving Tommy's federal certification as a diversity supplier. This will increase the points awarded to our grant proposal application.

Dan Carty wondered if there are other WAV transportation providers near Sudbury. Alice indicated that if there is enough demand, the transportation provider will park their WAV stock in a nearby location.

Partners Concord, Maynard and Stow each have unique needs. Concord has a large population, Stow is very rural and Maynard has more residents with financial need.

Alice shared that the towns using Tommy's Taxi and JFK Transportation reported at the MAPC meeting that they are pleased with their work. Shawna Levine, Program Coordinator, of Wayland reported that JFK has been fantastic to work with, and Mayor Spicer reported that Tommy's Taxi has been invaluable with assistance delivering food and meals to those in need.

MAPC COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant and Taxi Program a.k.a. the "Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program"

We discussed the recent outreach by the Committee: Sandy contacted the three supermarkets in town. Each one was excited to hear of the Taxi rides program and happy to share the information sheet and flyer. Some of their employees are walking to work and could use transportation as the weather grows colder. Sandy left several messages for Emerson Medical office. Alice will share contact information for Emerson Hospital's Community Liaison Kelsey Magnuson with Sandy.

Alice contacted the Clergy Association, Gifts of Hope, and Sudbury Foundation. All were pleased to share information about the program with their constituents.

Dan reached out to the Sudbury Housing Authority, HopeSudbury, and Charlie Dunn of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. The Taxi ride information and flyer were shared with HopeSudbury and the Housing Authority. Dan left a message for Charlie Dunn. Dan emailed Silvia Nersessian, Chair of the Sudbury Public Schools Committee, and will reach out to the L-S School Committee in the next week.

Debra shared information with the three housing developments: Musketahquid Village, Longfellow Glen and Coolidge at Sudbury, as well as Town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab. Bethany sent the flyer and information sheet to her various email networks. Linda Faust asked if Wayland Housing Authority could be contacted – as Linda’s apartment, though in Sudbury, falls under Wayland authority. Debra will follow up on this.

Lisa Kouchakdjian asked to receive the flyer and information sheet. Dan promised to email the information and link to the webpage to Lisa. Lisa will share the Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides program on social media, including Sudbury group Facebook pages.

Dan asked Alice how the Committee can help with the grant application. Alice asked that Committee members be ready to quickly respond to any questions that she emails during the next week.

Sandy reported that the Sudbury Council on Aging voted to utilize the \$10,000 in mitigation funds from B’nai B’rith Housing toward transportation costs association with the Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides program. Adam shared that all of the accounts are set up and we can use the funds when needed.

Adam also shared that he, Alice Sapienza, and Beth Perry will meet on Monday to discuss the Taxi Rides program statistics. Adam reports that his office has received two invoices for Tommy’s Taxi (September and October 2020) and one from JFK Transportation (September 2020). Currently, the invoices from Tommy’s total approximately \$2,500. Funds are being spent quickly with the pent-up demand for transportation due to the pandemic.

Doug wondered if with the new grant proposal there may be a provider who can provide some competitive pricing for WAV service. It was noted that we hope this will happen as a result of the larger pool of WAV riders from our multi-community collaboration.

Alice reminded the group that 5% of the total requested is available to assist with costs associated with administration of the program. Is there a way to make the dispatch process more efficient? Or automated? Adam feels that the process is very hands on due to the needs of the Taxi companies. They require paper and emails to make ride requests. Alice noted that Jo-Anne Thompson of Tommy’s has applied for \$50,000 to use for technical upgrades for her company. There will be more discussion of the administration process, needs and potential for efficiencies at Monday’s meeting between Adam, Alice and Beth.

Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Survey

Dan Carty created an online version of the survey that Sandy created. Sandy and Debra will review the online version after the meeting to give final feedback. After the survey is finalized, the link will be emailed by Ana Cristina Oliveira, Senior Center Outreach Specialist, to the persons who are on the registration list. Ana Cristina will mail a paper copy of the survey to the registrants who are not able to participate in the online survey. Sandy noted that if we receive survey results that indicate low scores, a plan should be in place for a staff person to follow-up with a phone call. Dan will add wording to the survey asking if participants are okay with a phone call to follow-up on their input.

Making the Connections: Uber Pilot

Dan Carty acknowledged that there is not enough time left in the meeting for a thorough discussion of the Uber program. Adam awaits the credit card which is expected to arrive next week.

Linda Faust asked about Uber safety. Dan Carty will have a more in-depth discussion with Health Director Bill Murphy to get insight into safety concerns.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 06 November were unanimously approved with edits.

Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting will be November 20, 2020, at 10:30 AM via the town Zoom service.

Comments from Attendees

Linda Faust shared that a recent taxi driver arrived 10 minutes early. He called her cell phone instead of her landline, and she almost did not answer, thinking it was too early, and maybe a robo-call. Alice acknowledged that this type of information can be shared with the Taxi dispatch to make sure that rides are not missed. Sandy also wondered whether the taxi company has a wait time policy, and if so, the taxi should be counting the wait time starting at the time of the ride appointment, not the time of taxi arrival, if early. The question brought up the idea that there may be a policy on this that we don't know.

Action Items

- Dan will send the survey link to Sandy and Debra for final review. Debra will then share the link with Ana Cristina who will be emailing it to the registrants in the program, and mailing a paper copy to registrants who will not be completing the survey online.
- Dan will discuss safety concerns re: Uber with Health Director Bill Murphy.
- Debra will outreach to Wayland Housing Authority to share Taxi ride flyer for their residents who live in Sudbury.
- Doug and Debra will contact the WAV providers that have worked with the MBTA to see if there is interest in participating in our grant proposal.
- Alice will work on the grant proposal and send a link to Emerson hospital liaison to Sandy.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 11:02 AM.