



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 5, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Group Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian

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

Guests: Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:38am. Dan C made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV for future viewing.

Selection of Clerk

Sandy volunteered to take meeting minutes.

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

Based on the program's current burn rate (money spent and committed to-date) the committee discussed whether we needed to suspend the program until (and if) new funds are secured through the outstanding MAPC Grant. Ana Christina and Beth will advise program participants about booking rides in February.

Doug suggested that we seek out other sources for funding such as the Sudbury Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. He also said that he would ask if the Commission on Disabilities would be willing to provide funds and if those funds would have any limitations on their use (e.g., WAV rides only)

Dan Carty volunteered to contact the Chamber of Commerce and the Sudbury Foundation for funds.

Alice stated that she was uncomfortable with asking outside sources for money before using available mitigation funds. Debra suggested we use the Uber fund—the \$15,000 from Meadow Walk funds already allocated to Uber services by the CoA—so that we don't have to shut down the program. Sandy will ask the COA to allocate \$5,000 from the above fund to the taxi program at the next COA meeting on February 9.

Based on rider feedback, there have been no complaints about limiting rides for medical appointments only until we secure additional program funding. Program participants understand why we are doing this but will also miss the program.

Even if we are awarded the new grant by the end of February, we will not be in a position to restart the program until at least April 1.

Sandy made the following motion: To use the \$5,000 from the already allocated Uber fund to continue the taxi program until the end of February while seeking additional funds from other committees to prolong the program.

The motion was seconded by Alice and approved by a unanimous rollcall vote.

The group also agreed the logo for both the taxi and Uber program will now be "GoSudbury!" since this has become the accepted usage and spelling.

Go Sudbury! Uber Program

Almost everything is in place to start the beta test of the Uber program. Geofences are set up and the Town Credit Card has been issued. Adam needs to assign the town account number which will be completed this week.

Debra will check with Katie from Uber, to determine if the edits to the sign-up form have been completed successfully.

Twelve people have been recruited for the beta test. They will be emailed this week to have them sign up either online or manually with assistance from Ana Christina if necessary. All twelve participants have a credit card, smart phone and a current Uber account.

There will be no wheelchair users in the beta test. After the beta test the committee will need to establish policies for WAV riders. Discussion was held about using JFK Taxi for WAV riders. Currently fewer than 5 people in the taxi program use WAV vehicles with only 2 being "regular" users.

The group agreed that Uber should start w/o 2/8 for both sign up and initial rides.

Alice reminded the committee that we need to be diligent in collecting data to meet the state requirements.

Adam will advise the Making the Connections team that we are starting the program.

Based on feedback Debra received from one essential worker taxi user, an Uber ride will cost \$10 each way because she works in a non-contiguous town. This will make Uber cost prohibitive for this user. After some discussion on making exceptions, it was suggested that we use distance rings vs. geo-fencing. The committee is considering changing from geo fencing to distance rings since some non-contiguous locations are closer than the far reaches of some contiguous towns. This is an easy change for Uber to make.

Linda Faust asked about special accommodation from Uber – e.g., would they look for her at the pick-up point and language issues especially for those with hearing issues. Doug will look into whether Uber has a disability app that can accommodate people like Linda in real time.

Other Transportation

The Senior Center Vans will be available for individual riders as soon as the Covid protocol training is completed. The substitute driver has completed training and will start w/o 2/8. The 2 other drivers need to complete the training, which is not available until the first week in March.

Debra needs to figure out how to expand the distance the vans travel and will work with MWRTA to do this.

Currently, the Senior Center has 3 vans – 2 vans for regular services and one which was used for the Route 20 service. The Route 20 service cannot be reestablished due to logistic issues such as van cleaning and number of riders permitted due to the pandemic.

Landham Road and Route 20 Crosswalk

This is still an open issue and Dan C said he will continue to follow up on this.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 22 meeting were approved as amended. Dan made the motion to approve, seconded by Alice and approved unanimously by a rollcall vote.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, February 19th, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment

Dan moved to adjourn, Alice seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a rollcall vote and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM