



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, March 26, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Sandy Lasky, Alice Sapienza, Dan Nason, Adam Duchesneau, Doug Frey

Core Members Absent: Debra Galloway

Advisory Group Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian

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

Guests: Linda Faust, Kay Bell, Ana Cristina Oliveira

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:32am. 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

Doug volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Go Sudbury! Uber Program

Alice discussed the Uber beta pilot program results from 3/1/to 3/25 including a temporary halt to the program due a software issue at Uber. Rides were provided for 8 days. There were 14 round trips provided to 5 riders and the average cost was \$15. Destinations included Sudbury, Boston, Marlboro and Concord. Purpose of trips included healthcare visits and shopping.

Sandy asked if the program should be opened to a small group of essential workers and Alice and Ana said there was no way to identify these riders. Ana mentioned there were 3 riders who were using the emergency taxi program to go to work.

Doug asked if there is WAV availability for the pilot program and are the hours comparable. Alice responded the WAV option is JFK but the hours are not comparable. Adam volunteered to ask town counsel about this issue.

Adam mentioned there were no ADA rides under the GoSudbury program until we get the taxi program back up and running. Cost of dispatch (\$5k per year) is a concern. Ana said she has received 10 calls for rides to Boston for medical appointments including procedures. Ana said the CoA van is running Mon, Wed, Fri and hoping to expand to 5 days soon.

Dan acknowledged Uber doesn't provide WAV and that we may want to consider holding off opening up the program until we have the taxi program reinstated.

Linda asked if the availability of the drivers has improved. Dan explained the supply/demand Uber model and said the short answer is no.

There was discussion as to potentially adding riders to the pilot and it was agreed to add 5 more riders to the 5 existing riders in the pilot program.

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

Alice provided an update on the new \$100k grant approved by the MAPC. A contract was signed by Henry Hayes and returned to the MAPC. The funds will come in two \$50k installments. As the grant is for multiple towns, Sudbury's portion is \$33k. Each of the 4 towns involved needs to provide dispatch services and 95% of the funds are required to go for taxi rides with the remaining 5% for administration including dispatch. Alice said we no longer have Beth, who did a yeoman's job with dispatch. Discussion ensued about the existing budget and money available.

Making the Connection Update

Adam mentioned Amy at Nelson/Nygaard will act as consultant on the project. There will be a meeting later in April with the other towns to understand goals and future needs. Sandy asked if the dispatch fee could be prorated and Adam said he would ask.

Alice cited the Marin County (CA) presentation as excellent and said Sudbury should move in the same direction as Marin County.

Select Board Joint Meeting Feedback

Alice said she received several good questions and Dan commented it was as much a presentation to the Town Manager as it was to the Select Board.

Alice suggested we bring in people from Newton, Acton and Lexington to learn more about their programs. Doug commented he thought the meeting was effective in planting the seed of future transportation needs for the Town. Sandy commented that we need to keep in front of the Select Board and Town Manager for updates and needs. Dan said he will try to target quarterly updates from the Transportation Committee and he will help get it on the agenda for Select Board meetings. Alice suggested we invite Henry to a future Transportation Committee meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, April 9th at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment

Dan C moved to adjourn, Doug seconded and the motion passed 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.