



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, April 30, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Debra Galloway, Dan Nason

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

Guests: Amy Loveless, Ana Cristina Oliveira, 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 10:33 am. 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. Roll call was taken with members Dan Carty, Sandy Lasky, Alice Sapienza, Adam Duchesneau, and Doug Frey identifying themselves as present.

Selection of Clerk

Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Items

Dan Carty let committee know that schools were all back in session full time this week and we received emails that were intended for the schools with regards to busing. He let committee know that he has responded accordingly and will do so with any future emails as well.

He also mentioned that it recently came to his attention that if we want to do a submission to the Town Annual Report, we need to have it in by Monday May 3 and volunteered to submit on behalf of the committee. Alice volunteered to help. The Committee was in agreement to allow them to write and submit.

Making the Connections, Go Sudbury! Taxi and Uber Programs

Dan did a screenshare of two documents, "FINAL FEEDBACK, FIRST MAPC TAXI GRANT" and "Some implications from the final feedback on GoSudbury taxi program". Alice walked the group through the data, calling attention to the fact that in general it was positive feedback. She noted that the negative feedback seemed to be tied to people worrying about having transportation in town longer

term and not with the program per se. She also thanked Ana Cristina Oliveira and Beth Perry for their help. Doug Frey asked if he could share with the Commission on Disability; Dan said of course. Alice noted that the feedback tied back to the needs assessment carried out a couple of years ago and called out social isolation and its impact on individuals. Discussion ensued about wheelchair accessible services and what might be done going forward. Dan asked what needed to be done to submit this to the MAPC and who would do it; Alice said she and Adam would discuss. Sandy Lasky thought the feedback was positive and she would share it with the Council on Aging.

Discussion pivoted to the second MAPC grant and Alice noted that Adam had received the money and distributed to the participating towns. Also noted at the recent Making the Connections meeting Sudbury's actions seem to have inspired other towns to take action and be more collaborative on regional transportation solutions. Adam discussed an upcoming meeting with CrossTown Connect (CTC) regarding their dispatching services. He said he was targeting a May 10th launch date and would work out details with CTC, then Ana Cristina Oliveira of the Sudbury Senior Center. Dan asked if the taxi companies were in the loop with these dates and Adam and Alice confirmed.

Dan asked the group what needed to be done to re-launch the taxi program and opined that it would be OK to launch taxi prior to Uber but not vice versa. Alice said that with decreased funding having Uber in place would be key as some riders would require taxi. Adam suggested that for taxi we set categories of rides rather than counts of rides. Ana thought that medical rides for taxi would be appropriate and also noted that the Senior Center vans would soon again be running five days a week to help with shopping and errand trips. Sandy clarified with Ana that the Senior Center vans would also be available for wheelchairs and felt that if people would take Uber when appropriate it would help extend the taxi program. She felt we should limit the taxis to medically related rides. Doug concurred. Dan noted that we had consensus from the committee to limit taxi rides for medical purposes.

Discussion ensued with regards to communication of the various programs. Alice felt we should emphasize the Council on Aging vans then Uber then the taxis. The concept of community outreach liaisons came up and Adam noted that he spoke with HR and the 1099 route would not be a viable option and if we used them, we would have to treat them like part time employees. Alice noted that we used 1099's for plow drivers and wondered why this would be different. Dan mentioned that he had researched virtual call center software that could split calls to a single number out across multiple people and there was no cheap option that he could find. Ana Cristina stated that the Senior Center could be the contact place for those needing assistance with Uber. Members of the committee noted that there would be multiple user groups potentially calling but they were OK with proceeding. NOT CLEAR...How about Members of the committee noted that there would be multiple user groups potentially calling the Sr Center but they were OK with proceeding and revisiting as warranted

Dan then asked that we virtually walk through the process starting from when someone signs up to when they actually get a ride. The group concurred that the Google signup form could be utilized, and Dan volunteered to make needed edits. Ana Cristina and Adam talked about the application and the liability form and how it could be reused. Linda Faust stated she was part of the Uber pilot group and asked if she would have to reapply. Dan stated that she would not have to. Alice asked who would answer questions for those signing up, to which Adam responded that Beth Perry from the Planning Office would be able to assist Ana Cristina as she no longer would be dispatching taxi

rides. Doug was asked if the Commission on Disability could help pre-qualify riders and he said he would bring it to the Commission. Adam added that the vast majority of taxi riders registered primarily as seniors so they would probably need help infrequently from the Commission. Dan noted that the Commission, much like this Committee, was not set up to handle questions on a 24x7 basis. Adam and Ana Cristina confirmed that their departments should be able to handle the initial signup of users.

Conversation looped back to the Google signup forms. Dan said he would make edits then send to Ana and Adam for confirmation. Adam said that he would draft the communication to go out announcing the relaunch of the Senior Center vans and Taxi program as well as the launch of Uber. It would start as a story on the Transportation Committee website which could then be shared to various social media sites. Doug stated he wanted to make sure that traditional media was used as well, including flyers. Adam stated he would send it to Town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab for distribution at various locations. Ana Cristina said she would also send it out to her contacts. Dan suggested it also be sent to the Sudbury Housing Authority and Sudbury Housing Trust. Ana felt we should use one signup form instead of two and Dan noted that would take a little work on his end to combine them, but he would do just that over the weekend and send it to Ana and Adam for their edits.

Dan asked if the group would be available for a meeting on Friday May 7th for a quick discussion prior to launch on May 10. The majority were not available but felt comfortable with launching the week of May 10 prior to our next Committee meeting. Linda Faust voiced concern about being able to sign up online, but it was noted she was already registered for both Uber and the Taxi and would not have to do so again. A question was asked if the Commission on Disability could advertise on their Facebook page and Dan recommended that they wait for Adam to publish his notice then they forward that one on in order to maintain consistent messaging.

Meeting Minutes

Alice moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2021, and Doug seconded. Minutes unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Sandy moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 16, 2021, and Dan seconded. Minutes unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Next Meeting

The committee agreed that the next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, May 14th, at 10:30 AM. Doug noted that he would not be able to attend.

Adjournment

Dan moved to adjourn, Alice seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote and the meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.