



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, June 11, 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 Present:

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

Guests: Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:35 AM. 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

Alice volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates

- Members of the committee received the KP Law eUpdate on "Implications of the pending termination of the state of emergency 7 June 2021." Dan reminded the committee that legislation is pending on whether to extend the "ability of public bodies to meet virtually" (likely to April 2022) or require public meetings to be held in person after 15 June. Unless he was notified otherwise beforehand, Dan stated that the next meeting would be via Zoom, and group members agreed on the accessibility and effectiveness of the virtual Transportation Committee meetings.
- The terms of two Advisory Group members from Sudbury schools (Ellen Joachim and Lisa Kouchakdjian) has expired and Dan is expecting to hear about their replacements for this committee.
- Ana Cristina, who has been acting director in Debra Galloway's absence, was not able to make this meeting but Alice reviewed the status of MWRTA Dial-a-Ride paratransit service. The latter will run again in Sudbury on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting 15 June, from 4 PM to 7 PM. Although there had been a question about those hours, Linda Faust noted that they had not changed. Alice agreed to see that Dial-a-Ride information was available in the summary of subsidized programs that Kay Bell had provided.

- In Debra’s absence, Sandy Lasky from the CoA was asked and agreed to be the *pro tem* representative for Sudbury at the MWRTA advisory board meeting on 6/28/21. Dan will request that Select Board approve Sandy for this role, until Debra returns in July.
- Dan stated that he now had access to the Uber dashboard, and (offline) would work with Alice on crafting regular management reports on Sudbury’s usage.
- Henry Hayes (Town Manager) wrote an excellent piece on transportation in his recent Town Manager Letter to residents.

Public Comment

At this point, Dan opened the meeting for public comment (there was none).

Making the Connection Update

Adam stated that the next meeting of the Steering Committee for this Community Compact grant will be on 30 June, facilitated by the Nelson/Nygaard program managers. Adam and Alice will meet with Bill Schwartz (from N/N) on 15 June, to prepare for the meeting. At this time, actual or intended signers of the Intermunicipal Agreement include Sudbury (lead municipality), Acton, Bolton, Concord, Maynard, and Stow. This number of collaborators bodes well for the extent and robustness of data that will be collected and assessed for the state on transportation needs and potential options for meeting them.

Go Sudbury! Taxi Program

Alice reported that there had been several rider complaints about Tommy’s Taxi (since the earlier complaints about the smell of smoke in some of the vehicles). Dan agreed to contact the owner and see how they could resolve these issues in the partnership between Sudbury and the company. Sandy commented that both companies appeared to be very quick in addressing problems.

The MAPC requires an interim report on the second taxi grant status, and Sudbury will be collecting information from the collaborating towns of Concord, Maynard, and Stow. Alice noted that Sudbury, having spent at least 2 years preparing for transportation programs like that, was far ahead of the other towns in terms of setting up, communicating to residents, and running the initiative. Thus, it was not surprising that the other three towns are still about to “put riders in vehicles” and may not have usage data for the June report. Sandy asked about money remaining from the grant if the towns did not use it, and Alice said that would be unlikely. Once the programs were understood by residents, she expected sufficient volume of use (like Sudbury’s) so that the money would be completely spent.

To date, Alice reported that Sudbury accounted for 21 medical rides in May, and that JFK’s invoice for service amounted to \$1,272. The invoice from Tommy’s Taxi is expected shortly. The committee will continue to monitor the “burn rate” of this program.

Go Sudbury! Uber Program

We now have one month’s data on the Uber pilot, with 52 trips taken at a total cost of \$937. Most of the trips are under 15 minutes in length; the average cost is \$18, with 80% under \$20 and the remainder over (most expensive trip to date was \$42).

Doug was asked to describe a company in North Chelmsford, Annex Transportation, that provides WAV service and was listed on a state website. He spoke to the owner, who said their business was mostly individuals but he would be very interested in providing such service to Sudbury. Dan said that Doug should continue to inquire about the company, because we have limited options for accessible transportation, and that town staff would conduct due diligence if we determined that a contract would be beneficial. Adam agreed that a contract would be very similar to what the town has executed with the taxi companies and should be quite straightforward. Alice noted that a 6-town partnership with such a company (the towns involved in Making the Connections) could be very attractive economically for all parties.

At the conclusion of discussion about the two Sudbury programs (taxi and Uber), Dan reminded the committee that, in addition to the current programs and initiatives, we had a larger and longer-term remit under the current charter. At a future meeting, Dan recommended we review these as we plan for the future.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 5/28/21 meeting were reviewed and edits made. Alice moved to approved edited minutes, Sandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, June 25th at 10:30 AM via Zoom, unless participants are otherwise notified (i.e., pending state legislation).

Adjournment

Sandy moved to adjourn, Dan seconded and the motion passed unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.