



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 28, 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:

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

Guests: Linda Faust, Ana Christina Oliveria, Zach Shapiro

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.

Administrative Updates

Dan C said the Commonwealth, as of 6/15/21 will lift emergency restrictions and it may impact our requirements for physical versus virtual meetings. We are covered through our virtual 6/11/21 meeting. Further clarification expected from Gov. Baker and the Commonwealth.

Dan C attended the recent Making the Connections meeting and was impressed that other towns view Sudbury as a leader and commented on how impressive Alice and Adam were in answering questions.

Dan C asked Ana Christina about the status of the reopening of the senior center and she responded that programs will start June 2nd and fully open on July 6th. Instructors and participants have been contacted and there are staff physically in the office now. As some participants are comfortable meeting in person, hybrid programs are likely.

Dan C said he tries to respond to emails to the Transportation Committee within 24 hours. There were a few regarding school buses that he has responded to, but he cannot reply all due to Open Meeting laws.

Public Comment

Dan C recognized Zach Shapiro and Linda Faust for public comment.

Zach S said he thought the transportation options like Uber and the emergency taxi programs were great but expressed concern about the limited options for wheel chair accessible (WAVs) for out of town trips. Uber doesn't offer WAV service and JFK taxi has very limited hours of availability. He cited the discontinued Dial-a-Ride option that ran Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 8 pm. He would like to see the Dial-a-Ride option reinstated. He said he understood that the MWRTA is willing to work with Sudbury and we should pursue options for nights and weekends. Dan C agreed that there are gaps.

Ana Christina commented that the Dial-a-Ride program was a pilot and would review with Debra Galloway. Doug asked if the van service could be expanded longer term and Ana Christina said it would be difficult with the number of drivers available, but would review with Debra. Sandy also suggested we pursue expansion of MWRTA van service.

Linda Faust had a question about a recent CoA van ride where she requested a pm ride to CVS and a driver called her to see if she could go in the am. Ana Christina said the Sr Center may change appointment times to accommodate multiple requests. Linda commented that pre-Covid there was difficulty finding drivers for the shuttle and asked if that problem will continue. Ana Christina said they have 1 driver now and it continues to be difficult to find drivers. Alice commented that the Uber program should alleviate shuttle demand and that the average Uber wait time is under a half hour.

Dan C said a question came up about eligibility for GoSudbury rides. Is it available for non-residents, i.e. for workers coming to Sudbury? Adam had a conversation with Kay Bell about how out of town usage is low. Alice confirmed that the Uber and taxi "trips must begin and end in Sudbury". Only the CoA van is restricted to Sudbury residents.

Alice mentioned Kay Bell's chart comparing transportation options and how helpful it will be. Alice and Adam will meet to ensure the chart is accurate. Sandy said she thought the chart was terrific and would help with re packaging the look. Dan C thanked Kay for her good work.

Go Sudbury! Uber/Taxi Program

Adam discussed the financial status of the program. He also mentioned there were two complaints—one about cigarette smoke in the cab, which will be addressed by the cab company and another about tardiness of a taxi pickup. Adam said on the whole, we're doing well on pickups times. He said Cross Town Connect has been doing a good job with dispatch and Alice concurred. Also commended Ana Christina for a great job assisting people who need help.

Alice discussed the Uber project and said we had one month of history and a key metric of wait time for a ride averaged 20 to 30 minutes. She'll review the Uber Dashboard as more information becomes

available. Uber cost is about \$3 per mile, which is good. Dan C will meet with Alice to review Dashboard reporting.

Linda Faust pointed out that a driver left her off at the wrong place in a plaza and if she complained, the same driver would not be sent to drive her again. Linda suggests Uber educate the driver on the issue instead of banning him from driving Linda, given the low number of drivers in the area.

Making the Connection Update

Adam convened a meeting of this group on Monday, 5/24 and a workshop will take place in June. Maynard and Stow are committed and Acton is close. Concord and Bolton TBD.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 5/14/21 meeting were reviewed and edits made. Alice moved to approved edited minutes, Dan C seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, June 11th at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment

Sandy moved to adjourn, Alice seconded and the motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.