



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, November 12, 2021

11:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason, Debra Galloway

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Charlie Dunn, Scott Nix, Beth Suedmeyer, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: Ana Cristina Oliveira (Sudbury Senior Center), Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV)

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, and after confirming a quorum was present, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting and called roll. 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.

Agenda and Focus

Dan reviewed the agenda and suggested the following topics: ARPA Letter, the business plan take-away from the recent meeting with the Sudbury Select Board, and other administrative items.

GoSudbury! Taxi and Uber Program

The Council on Aging approved the use of an additional \$35,000 from the Meadow Walk Mitigation Funds to keep the Go Sudbury Uber and Taxi Programs funded through the beginning of the next calendar year. Dan and Adam will add this item to the Select Board Meeting on 11/16 for their approval. Once approved the funds will be immediately available.

CORI/SORI Requirements

Both Uber and the Taxi services we use adhere to CORI/SORI requirements so that METCO riders can take advantage of these services. Dan is working with the METCO administrators to confirm that

these riders will fall within the 25 mile distance restriction. If we find that we need to extend this distance for the METCO users, we will extend the distance accordingly.

Sudbury ARPA funds and request for transportation purposes

Dan informed the group that the state is conducting a session on ARPA on Wednesday, November 17 from 9:00-12:30. He will provide information on the session to anyone that is interested.

Taxi Cleaning Policy

JFK Taxi would like to change their policy from cleaning after every ride, to cleaning once at the end of the day. The committee agreed that this is a Health Department issue and we will defer to their guidelines on the matter.

ARPA Letter

Alice and Dan shared a draft of the letter that will be presented to the Select Board to request ARPA funds. We discussed the dollar amounts that are needed for each service offered. Alice recommended we ask for a significant amount of money for Dial A Ride Extension to keep this going. Dial A Ride is administered through MWRTA which is having a problem hiring drivers for this program. Alice also mentioned that securing drivers is an issue with the Newton Via program as well.

Debra recommended that we include \$150,000 for a Transportation Coordinator (3 year contract). The Committee agreed that we should also include \$100,000 for the Go Sudbury Uber and Taxi Program and \$100,000 for Dial A Ride for a total of \$350,000. This total amount is less than 6% of the ARPA funds allotted to Sudbury.

The Committee discussed some of the language in the draft. Adam and Debra had provided some language which will be incorporated in the draft. The Committee empowered Dan to finish the draft and forward it to the Select Board for the 11/16 meeting. There was a motion made by Adam to have Dan will sign the letter on behalf of the Committee. Alice seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

There are still some outstanding questions:

If the funds are approved, when will they be made available?

If MWRTA cannot fulfill our request for more service, what happens to the money?

What happens if we get funded for the Transportation Coordinator and the job is not approved?

Dan will open a discussion with the Select Board on the oversight of funds which will address the above questions. Dan will continue to act as our Committee's advocate with the Select Board on any other issues related to ARPA funds.

Co-pays for rides

We had a brief discussion on instituting co-pays for both Uber and Taxi rides. Ana Christina asked if she should send out a notice to riders that this is on the horizon. It was agreed that we should do this. Also, this notification should remind riders that there are other transportation options that are more cost effective and should be used when appropriate. Adam volunteered to draft an email and Ana will send it out.

Co-pays will be based on an individual's ability to pay. Alice will do some analysis to determine what a co-pay contribution would have been if we instituted it 6 months ago. This will give us some idea of how much we can extend the services going forward. She noted that VIA co-pays paid for 20% of the service in Newton.

Next Meeting

The Transportation Committee voted unanimously to set the next meeting for **Friday, December 3, at 10:30 AM** via Zoom.

Summary of Take Aways from meeting

Final ARPA letter will be completed by Dan and sent to Select Board by end of day

Look at hypothetical co-pays to extend the program

Oversight of ARPA funds – Dan to bring up with Select Board

Alice to look at the percent of Taxi rides that are local to educate riders on cost effective alternatives

Adam will draft letter to riders of impending co-pays

Dan to work with schools on Metco riders

Meeting Minutes

Dan shared a draft of the November 5, 2021, minutes. Alice moved to approve the minutes and Doug seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Adjournment

The Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 AM.