



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, March 18, 2022

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

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, Outreach Specialist, Sudbury Senior Center, Sandy Lasky, Linda Faust, Kay Bell, Lynn Puorro, Bob Lieberman (upcoming CoA member)

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 10:32 am. Dan C made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV. He took a roll call, noted a quorum was present, then announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk

Alice volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates

Dan reviewed the task list from the prior meeting and set out the agenda topics (but not the order) for discussion:

- Follow up with Senator Barrett (about grants for regional transportation initiatives)
- Follow up on application to Sudbury Foundation to continue GoSudbury services
- Survey on co-pays
- Thank you to Maynard and Concord for allocations from MAPC taxi grant
- LS science club members and IT projects
- Financial status update (Adam)
- Follow-up on taxi riders (one or two accounted for majority of rides) (Ana Cristina)
- Update of rides and unique riders for Select Board discussion (Dan and Alice)
- Update on Business Plan for Select Board.

Financial Status

Adam reviewed the expenditures and resources available via his updated spreadsheet. He reiterated that the programs should be viable through June, given: (1) the agreement from the CoA to allocate the remaining Meadow Walk mitigation money (about \$11,000 still to be approved by the Select Board) for GoSudbury programs; (2) the decision to allocate unspent MAPC tax funds from the second grant (Maynard and Concord), amounting to about \$18,000; and (3) remaining MAPC funds from the second tranche of the second grant available to Sudbury and Stow.

Over the past 9 or 10 months of use, our program spending has averaged \$2,700/month for Uber and \$4,800/month for taxis (the average ride cost is \$18 for Uber and \$74 for taxis), or around \$7,500/month total.

Dan reminded the group that we had asked for \$100,000 (via a warrant at the next Town Meeting), to ensure continuation of these programs. In addition, we still have the request for ARPA funds under discussion by the Select Board (a “listening session” will be held for all those requesting funds). If the \$100,000 is approved, it should be available for spending in July.

Another potential source of funds near-term is the Sudbury Foundation, which has provided grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000. (More detail below.)

Survey on Co-Pays

Following several minor revisions from the last meeting by Sandy, the survey was disseminated to about 170 registered users of GoSudbury and reminders were sent recently. At the last meeting, Dan reviewed statistics from 44 surveys received; as of this meeting, 70 surveys have been returned for a very robust registered-user response rate of more than 40%. The survey will stay open until 25 March, and then Dan will disseminate the analyses and Sandy will draft a narrative on the results. Alice noted that verbatim comments will be very helpful incorporated in (with data appended to) the Business Plan, the warrant request, and possible request for extension of Making the Connections grant timeline.

Brief Updates

Thank-You Letters. Because Maynard and Concord willingly reallocated their unspent MAPC funds to Sudbury (and Stow), Dan wrote a thank-you letter to a staff person in each town. Alice moved to send the letters as written, Adam seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Sudbury’s Senator. Dan spoke with Jamie Eldridge, who replaces Barrett and now includes all of Sudbury within his remit. Eldridge was very interested in the GoSudbury programs and is willing to help inform us of state and federal options for support.

The Sudbury Foundation. The Foundation deliberates quarterly on proposals submitted, and Dan volunteered to write an application for the upcoming RFP date (due 1 April). Because the proposal should be submitted by the Town Manager, Dan talked with Henry, who is happy to submit a request for \$100,000 for medical rides only. If a proposal is submitted for the Transportation Committee by 1 April, the Trustees will review it by June. Awards would be made thereafter.

Taxi Riders. A small number of residents accounted for a large percentage of medical taxi rides in March, and Dan had asked Senior Center staff to speak with them about considering other options in addition to the taxis. Ana Cristina did talk with the riders and found that one had recently finished treatment and was very grateful for the service.

LS IT Student Help. After talking with the LS students who could provide IT service, Dan discovered that they were unsure if they could work on transportation projects. Alice noted that Maynard had found a high school student who is writing an application for seniors to request the CoA van, and that such an app might (in the future) be useful for GoSudbury programs. Ana Cristina was not sure that enough senior riders would want, or could use, that approach but all are willing to consider it.

Select Board Communications

Alice received input recently from Debra regarding the draft Business Plan and will incorporate it and distribute next week for final review. When the co-pay survey data are available, they will be included as noted above. Dan recommended that we prepare to speak at the Select Board meeting on April 5th about the Business Plan.

In addition to presenting this proposal for the Select Board, Dan recommended that we have a brief (10 minutes) presentation relevant to the Warrant article (\$100,000 for Town Meeting) also for the Board. He would like to have data on numbers of rides for each program and numbers of unique users for each program. Alice will help pull these statistics together for him. Sandy suggested we make sure that people know about our programs; Dan added that we should remind people to attend the Town Meeting.

Annex Accessible Transportation

Doug provided examples from Annex of costs to transport a resident of Sudbury (using Doug's address) to Emerson Hospital, MetroWest Medical Center, and MGH-Brigham. The costs, he found out during the meeting, were markedly lower for the round trip than the costs of JFK. One of the continual issues with JFK WAV service is the number of hours when service is available to Sudbury (JFK has prior contracts with other organizations for that service. If Sudbury and other towns decide to include Annex as an option, the company must first be approved by MAPC (for taxi/livery funding), as well as by each town (liability, insurance limits, etc. etc.). Even if MAPC is pre-qualifying vendors for future grant cycles, each town must work out terms and ensure the relationship meets legal counsel advice. Alice will follow up with MAPC re: Annex.

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2022, Transportation Committee meeting were reviewed on screen with edits. Alice moved to approve the minutes, Doug seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Task Recap

Dan reviewed the tasks (and responsibility) discussed at this meeting:

- Rides and rider statistics for Select Board (Alice and Dan)
- Survey closure and analysis (Sandy and Dan)
- Sudbury Foundation proposal (Dan)
- Thank-you letters (Dan will send)
- Archiving Adam's program spreadsheet (Dan)

- Annex prequalification (Alice)
- Business Plan update (Alice).

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, April 1, at 10:30 AM via Zoom. (For the next meeting, Doug asked that we discuss the request for Uber supplemental payment by a resident. Adam referred to the proposed workaround he had suggested. Discussion can be continued.)

Adjournment

Adam moved to adjourn the meeting, Dan seconded, and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.