



# Town of Sudbury

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

## Sudbury Transportation Committee

### Minutes

Friday, April 1, 2022

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Adam Duchesneau, Doug Frey, Debra Galloway, Bob Lieberman

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

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 (SudburyTV)

### 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 a legal 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

Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes.

### Recap and Takeaways

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

- Rider statistics – Dan and Alice – to be reviewed later in meeting
- Rider survey data – Sandy and Alice – to be reviewed later in meeting
- Sudbury Foundation Grant application – Dan – submitted, to be reviewed later in meeting as time allows
- Thank you letters to Maynard and Concord – Dan - complete and mailed out
- Financial updates – Adam - complete
- Business plan updates – Alice – to be reviewed later in meeting
- Annex prequalification – Alice - to be reviewed later in meeting as time allows

- Follow up with Senator Barrett (about grants for regional transportation initiatives) – Dan - noted there was no update on this at this time and we would return to this after business plan deliverable and Town Meeting

Dan noted that all guests were welcome to participate in the meeting but asked that everyone keep their devices on mute unless speaking.

### **Financial Status**

Dan noted that the MeadowWalk mitigation money had been approved by the Select Board. Adam confirmed and shared the latest version of his financial tracking sheet and reviewed the expenditures and resources available. He noted that we had approximately \$40,000 to pay for March, April, May, and June. Adam would investigate available MAGIC funds to help bridge us if and until the Town Meeting funds came in.

### **Upcoming Select Board Meeting**

Dan stated that the Transportation program update was on the Select Board agenda for Tuesday April 5. He added that he was not expecting to hold a joint meeting but would still post notice that a quorum of Transportation Committee members may be present at this meeting. He stated that the meeting would cover the Town meeting article as well as the requested business plan, finances, survey, and rider data.

Dan shared his screen and showed Alice's latest draft of the business plan. Alice thanked Debra Galloway for correcting some of the fees presented but noted there were no major changes to the first two sections. Alice discussed scenario three and she noted that the \$1,000,000 price tag would be shared across multiple communities. She thanked Doug who had caught a needed correction in one of the data tables, and Deb thanked Alice for her work in assembling the document. Deb opined about possible changes of destinations in the program. Alice suggested that we are putting this forward as suggestions to the Select Board and were looking for their input. Sandy Lasky added that we should mention that we are always looking for more economical options and noted Annex vs. taxis as an example. Alice replied that WAV (wheelchair) rides are relatively low in number. Doug stated that we needed to ensure that we are looking for equitable WAV services for ADA compliance. Alice and Adam discussed possible options and actions.

At this point Dan stopped sharing his screen and noted that Adam had warned of a link that was being added to the chat window as it looked malicious in nature.

Dan recognized Kay Bell of Old Lancaster Road who voiced her support and stated committee should continue doing what they are doing and trying different options and possibilities.

### **Rider Survey**

Dan started the conversation by saying he had stripped out rider names from the survey data before sharing with the group. He shared his screen and showed that seventy responses had been received but that the spirit of the data had not changed significantly since the last review. Sandy thought there was opportunity to increase some of the copays for those that can afford it while leaving them affordable for those that needed it. Alice agreed. The summary document was then shared on Zoom. Bob asked if our financial situation assumed a change in copays. Dan said we are assuming no change in

copays while leaving the door open for us to change if needed depending on a change in ridership levels. Alice added that we have looked at other towns for comparable rates and that copays usually only cover 10 to 20% of costs. Bob asked if the survey stated what current copays were. Deb answered that we currently charge copays for Uber but none for taxi.

Alice led the discussion on the summarized data and highlighted that communication is of utmost importance and that the services we provide are in some cases a lifeline for those riders. She also pointed out that we are seeing a minute portion of riders versus those that are eligible for it. Sandy suggested a monthly email reminder may help reach riders, and Alice thought using inserts to Town bills might help reach those without a smartphone. Bob asked Debra if something could go in the Senior Center newsletter that gets mailed out. Debra noted that had been done in the past. Ana Cristina Oliveira added that support is given to current participants via the senior center. Discussion ensued about how best to reach other potential riders. Ana Cristina volunteered to write up a sample communication that could go out to potential riders.

### **Town Meeting Article**

Dan stated that the Town Meeting warrant article is finalized but wanted to review the presentation that he planned to deliver at Town Meeting. He shared his screen and showed a PowerPoint presentation. He stated he planned to do a quick history of the Transportation Committee then the Livable Sudbury study. The “Current Reality” slide was pulled from the presentation to the Select Board, then the history of program funding was discussed. Adam provided an updated MeadowWalk mitigation figure and Dan updated accordingly. Alice and Deb suggested that Sudbury as lead community be added to the regional funding. Edits for community resources and healthcare examples were suggested by Ana Cristina and Dan updated accordingly. Deb pointed out an inconsistency in the counts between two slides as well as a repetition on slide 5.

Dan noted that Alice had dropped from the meeting due to an appointment.

Dan noted other minor edits as he progressed through the slides. Adam suggested that we mention that we will continue to pursue grant funding in addition to this funding but if Town Meeting does not approve we will likely begin to taper the program down. Sandy added that volunteers have been working on this but that is not sustainable. Doug suggested we be ready to answer what other towns are doing for transportation.

Dan stated that he would send out supporting documents to the Committee in advance of the upcoming Select Board meeting.

### **Administrative Items**

Dan gave a brief update on the Sudbury Foundation Grant which had been submitted. Adam said he would send to the Committee.

Dan stated that Annex Transportation would be discussed in the next meeting.

An email received from a group at Curtis Middle School regarding bicycle safety was briefly discussed.

Doug Frey stated that he was resigning his post as of the end of April and Kay Bell would take over his seat as the Commission on Disability representative.

The next meeting was schedule for Friday April 22 at 10:30AM.

**Meeting Minutes**

March 18, 2022, Transportation Committee meeting were reviewed on screen with minor edits. Deb moved to approve the minutes, Doug seconded, and the motion passed via roll call vote with Bob Lieberman abstaining. Discussion ensued about getting Bob added to the group email distribution.

**Adjournment**

Adam moved to adjourn the meeting, Deb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.