



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, July 1, 2022

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Adam Duchesneau, Kay Bell, Bob Lieberman

Core Members Absent: Debra Galloway

Advisory Group Present: None

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Scott Nix, Beth Suedmeyer, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: Linda Faust, Ana Cristina Oliveira

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 10:30am. Dan Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV. He took roll call, noted that a quorum was present, and announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session. Dan also told the group that, if the meeting was “bombed” by hackers in the Chat function, he would stop the meeting and reconvene shortly after. He also needed a hard stop of the meeting by 11:45 AM.

Selection of Clerk

In Debra’s absence, Alice volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates

Dan reviewed tasks from last week’s meeting:

- Minutes from the 6/24 meeting were not available yet, because Bob was unable to open the file of the video recording.
- From that prior meeting, the following were to be addressed today:
 - Dan’s graphic of co-pay amounts and tranches of Uber ride costs, already distributed
 - Adam’s report on whether Uber software could accommodate ride caps/month and whether CTC could cap taxi rides (Adam stated that answers to both were Yes)
 - Mask policy for taxi drivers? Uber was following Federal relaxation of mask requirements. (Ana Cristina said she will contact both companies to find out their policy.)

- Decisions on ride limits, co-pay amounts, non-resident qualifying policies (e.g., essential worker not living in Sudbury).

New Program Limits

Uber: Adam noted that the latest (June) Uber invoice was for \$4,243, nearly \$2,000 less than the prior month. Ana Cristina said she had spoken with the several users accounting for most of the cost of rides and asked if they would watch the frequency of use, so the costs could be reduced and, thus, program could be available to more people.

Dan suggested the following limits: 20-ride cap per month; and copays of \$3 for rides up to 5.0 miles, \$7 from 5.1 to 10.0 miles, and \$15 from 10.1 to 25 miles (as the crow flies). He showed the scatter plot of ride data (August 2021 through May 2022) and the three tranches of proposed copays. The data suggest a preponderance of rides up to 10.0 miles and a linear regression across mileage with some outliers due to surge pricing (i.e., drivers not available in the area at the time of the request). Earlier, he had distributed an analysis of age of riders, showing that few would be affected by raising the age limit qualification to 60 years and over.

After some discussion of these changes to the Uber program, Dan asked for a motion that riders be notified of them before 1 August 2022 and that they would be in place through June 2023. Alice so moved, there was no further discussion, Adam seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Taxi: Because these rides are to medical appointments only, and for the most frail/needy riders, no copays will be levied but a 20-ride cap would be instituted. Alice had looked at taxi ride data (see above) and only one person would have been affected by that cap. Residents applying for the taxi program (or being contacted by the Senior Center) will also need to re-register, and Dan and Alice will check the age of current taxi riders to find out if a qualification of 60+ would impact them.

Also under discussion was the alteration to the online registration page for both programs (which Dan will modify), and the group agreed that re-registration for Uber and taxi was in order because of the extent of changes. In terms of non-resident workers using Uber, the group agreed to a policy that such persons must also meet one of the four qualifications: age (now, 60+), 18+ with disability, financially at risk, or veteran/reserve status.

In terms of ride management, Ana Cristina said she could remove the current list of registered users from the Uber Dashboard and replace with those who re-registered when the time came. Dan will have the new registration form only before 1 August, and anyone needing help (e.g., with a paper process) can call the Senior Center. Kay will draft an announcement about the coming change, for review by the Committee, and Adam will have the Town website and various social media outlets updated as well.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 14th at 10:30 was selected for the next meeting. At this time, all members should have reviewed Kay's draft announcement and Dan's alteration of the GOSudbury registration.

Kay noted that there is an accessible format for the Minutes and shared her screen. Using that template, the minutes can be saved in Adobe and downloaded for accessible devices from the Town website.

Adjournment

Dan asked for a motion to adjourn, Bob so moved, Kay seconded, and the meeting was ended at 11:50 AM.