



# Town of Sudbury

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

## Sudbury Transportation Committee

### Minutes

Friday, June 24, 2022

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: None

Advisory Group Present: None

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

Guests: Sandy Lasky, 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 a quorum was present, then announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session.

### Selection of Clerk

Bob volunteered to take meeting minutes.

### Administrative Updates:

Dan recapped the action items from last meeting and agenda items for discussion:

- Adam was to send out the finances to the group which was done.
- Dan mentioned that the documents that were reviewed from last meeting were distributed.
- Minutes from the previous meeting and all documents shared at the meeting are posted on the website.
- Adam was to look into the technical feasibility of Uber limiting the number of rides per month.
- Dan to send out sign up form and waiver language for review.
- Dan's analysis of ridership data for those over 50 but under 60 was distributed.

### **Update on Financial Status:**

Adam reviewed the current month's expenditures and remaining resources available for the Go Sudbury programs. May charges for Tommy's Taxi (\$2,374), JFK (\$3,872) and Uber (\$6,185) for a total of \$12,431 were paid in June. Uber rides continue to increase with May's charges the highest monthly total on record and the average for the last three months was \$5,353. Topics of higher costs and remedies will be discussed later in the meeting. Adam noted that after the June charges we will have exhausted all the Meadow Walk Mitigation funds and will rely on the annual Town Meeting Article 14 funding in the amount of \$100,000.

### **Topics for review in this meeting:**

Dan outlined what he hoped to cover in this meeting:

- Debra and Alice were working on policies and procedures recommendations
- Technical assistance from the MPO
- Mass Development grant due July 8, 2022 and will report later in the meeting
- Discussion on rider caps and co-pays
- Annex next steps including billing and rider perspective.

### **MassDevelopment Grant, MPO Tech Assistance:**

Alice began the review by referring to the MassDevelopment application as meeting the agency's number one goal of increasing WAV (wheelchair accessible vehicles) by bringing on Annex. The proposal will also meet goals of providing service in a transit isolated district and improving non-emergency non-medical transportation services. Decisions pending are whether Sudbury will continue to constrain taxi rides to medical appointments only. Cost of taxi rides vs Uber rides was discussed. Total based on last year was \$65,000 with a provision to expanded WAV service (\$20,000) or \$85,000 for medical appointments as we collaborate with three other towns to provide service. Discussion continued with regard to wheelchair accessibility but not necessarily to medical appointments. Consider impact on budget and how to interface with dispatch. Those needing WAV rides for non-medical appointments would utilize Annex. JFK remains more sensitive with WAV rides as Annex is another option. Discussion on dispatch methodology and agreement to keep taxi rides for medical purposes only. From a cost effective prospective, individuals will be required to call Annex directly, Consensus to keep taxi service for medical appointments only. Follow-up we will need to clarify ride reservation process.

### **Annex update:**

Adam mentioned a discussion with Francis Mugo at Annex who reiterated that with regard to training, drivers receive annually defensive driving updates, sensitivity training, door to door service, procedures for assisting riders getting in and out of cars to destination and vice versa. Require 24 hour prior request for ride be sent. A first cut agreement has been sent to them and cross check as to availability of riders. We will share registration with taxi companies and Annex to ensure eligibility. Riders must be registered in Go Sudbury program.

Rider cap question is still open. If the Town enters into a new agreement with a provider and we have a service issue that can't be resolved, we can cancel the contract by giving a 7 day written notice. Town counsel will review document prior to execution.

MassDevelopment discussion continued - funding for health care service for medical rides or individuals who need a higher level of service through Annex for wheelchair accessibility. Citizen Linda Faust asked a question about additional service assistance in and out of cab. What is definition of additional service and what is mask policy with Annex. Uber has no mask mandate according to Federal guidelines.

#### **MPO Technical Assistance:**

Alice presented a chart again representing healthcare appointment activity from May 2021 to May 2022 at a cost of \$63,000 and an additional cost of a WAV possibility. The current WAV provider, JFK, has limited hours of availability due to prior contracts. The budget includes an increase of \$24,000 to cover WAV service for both JFK and Annex and the total request for Sudbury is \$87,000. Alice continued that she had a conversation with Nicole Freedman in Newton, to discuss the involvement of Mass DOT and the difficulties of working with multiple RTA's.

#### **Ride Caps/Co-Pays/ Ridership Data:**

Discussion turned to the proposed recommendations for transitioning GO Sudbury! pilots to Town supported programs, as prepared by Debra Galloway, Alice Sapienza and Ana Christina Olivera. Sustainability of the program is key, as is maintaining availability to those who qualify for the program. Members agreed that we should enter into a phase 2 re-registration along with an update on procedures.

#### **Eligibility requirements:**

Recommendations include 1) residents over 60, 2) residents 18 and older with a disability that limits driving, 3) residents 18 plus with financial needs, 4) residents on active duty or reserves and veterans, 5) adults 18 and older who work in Sudbury and meet one of the above qualifications. Alice mentioned that Dan's analysis would support that there are three individuals in the 50-59 age group that did not indicate qualification other than age and that we should raise the age requirement to 60 and older. Consider straw poll on eligibility factors. Citizen Sandy Lasky was recognized and suggested that, for those individuals who might be hesitant to disclose certain personal information, we include a disclaimer that states we are gathering the information in the aggregate to help people and the information will not otherwise be disclosed. Consensus that eligibility updates were acceptable.

#### **Number of rides/Co-Pays/Distance:**

- **Number of rides:** Discussion continued amongst the members concerning the three elements and it was felt that an interim phase 2 adjustment would be to adjust co-pays

and number of rides only at this juncture and defer a decision on any distance modification. Bob noted that there are only three individuals whose frequency of rides is in excess of 20 per month. Dan mentioned that the key objective is to have a sustainable program for all individuals who participate in the program.

- **Co-Pays**” Current Uber program co-pay is \$1 within Sudbury, \$2 to a contiguous town and \$10 further. The new proposal would be to change copays as follows: \$3 for rides 1 to 5 miles, \$7 for rides between 5 and 10 miles and \$15 for rides 10 to 25 miles. Dan will review the data base to compare the cost of co-pays vs. the cost of the total ride. Alice mentioned that, in other cities and towns with similar programs, the co-pays equal no more than 20% of the total ride cost.

Adam to check in with Uber that these proposed changes are technically feasible

### **Taxi Ride Data:**

There currently are no co-pays for this program and a question has come up as to how we would manage the number of rides. Co-pays on taxi rides are difficult to manage. Question came up as to whether we would need to limit the number of rides per month. Would need assistance from Cross Town connect. Alice noted that an analysis of May 2021 to May 2022 taxi data showed only one rider exceeded 20 rides in a month. There are about 50 unique taxi riders.

There is a level of urgency to finalize these questions on number of rides and co-pays.

### **Next Meeting:**

The group set the next Transportation Committee meeting for Friday July 1, 2022, at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

### **Actions for Next Meeting:**

Dan summarized what will be undertaken before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Committee to finalize decisions on co-pays and number of rides,
- Adam to address technical prospective and roll out,
- Update of registration an associated forms.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Dan reviewed proposed changes to the minutes of May 27<sup>th</sup> and mentioned that minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup> would be reviewed at the next meeting. Motion to approve the edited Transportation Committee meeting minutes for May 27 made by Alice Sapienza, seconded by Debra Galloway, and unanimously approved when roll call vote was called.

### **Adjournment**

Kay moved to adjourn the meeting, Alice seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.