



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, August 26, 2022

10:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Adam Duchesneau

Advisory Group Present:

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

Guests: Francis Mugo (Annex Transit), Sandy Lasky, Linda Faust, Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV)

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 10:07 am. 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 and then announced that he was making Debra Galloway co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk

Bob volunteered to take meeting minutes

Administrative Updates

Dan first welcomed Francis Mugo of Annex Transit (Annex) and mentioned that we now have a signed agreement between the Town of Sudbury and Annex so we will concentrate on the onboarding process. Dan mentioned that we are still scheduled for a presentation to the Select Board on September 13th and that will be the focus of today's meeting. Additional items noted include:

- Debra Galloway to meet with new administrator at the MWRTA
- Upcoming meeting with the Making the Connections scheduled for August 31st.
- Follow up on five year vision including costs and challenges
- Continued efforts to identify sign up issues for re-registration of the Go Sudbury! Uber and Taxi programs

Update on Uber and Taxi Program Criteria

Debra brought to the attention of the committee the potential for some leeway concerning the 20-ride per month limitation for those in financial need or “crisis” and whether there were any grant funds available. Alice mentioned that perhaps money could be set aside for contingencies in the \$3,000 range along with potential fundraising help. Concerns about monitoring these exceptions were raised and Dan suggested we table the issue until our next meeting. A motion was raised by Alice Sapienza and second by Kay Bell that Debra Galloway will make judgements on a temporary basis and the motion passed unanimously

Annex Transit

Francis Mugo - head of operations for Annex Transit based out of Chelmsford, introduced himself and gave the committee an overview of 1) their services, 2) number of vehicles in the fleet, 3) driver assistance for passenger when needed, 4) bookings on line, 5) vehicles dedicated to Sudbury, 6) types of WAV vehicles, 7) drivers will go into medical buildings to assist riders and 8) Annex will accept 24 hour notice to secure a vehicle. These services will be a complement to our existing partners and we will continue with the onboarding process.

Select Board Presentation

The discussion then turned to the scheduled upcoming meeting with the Select Board, tentatively on September 13, and the five-year vision for the program. A recap was presented by Dan with the elements of who, when, how, what and why. As this is a regional approach we need to understand the commitment from other towns for a multiyear commitment. The FY 24 Go Sudbury program will continue as it is for now and the Committee has applied for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) technical assistance. The FY 25 plan will include more collaboration and resources including hoped-for funding (such as the MassDevelopment grant for taxis). Discussion continued with the possibility of utilizing the town social worker and how to achieve a transportation model that addresses equity and sustainability from an environmental perspective. We have the MPO route planner reviewing our data from both Uber and the taxi service. Technical assistance from the MPO, if awarded, will first help to solidify our proof of concept initiatives. Alice discussed the Newton, MA program and the presence of their electric vehicles with signage on the streets, which helped reduce the need for marketing dollars. The conversation then turned to the presentation which will focus on FY 23 and FY 24 and a request for an additional \$100,000 in town funding. Bob mentioned that we need to demonstrate some success stories to build on the concept and foundation of the program and then expand into a longer term program and to identify the steps to get there. Regional participation is key to the success of the program. We see the presentation as a graphic visualization on a year by year progression and the challenges and goals in each of those years. We want to reiterate that when you get to a regional scale, operating costs will go down. We also might consider making our Uber dashboard available to other towns as an incentive to collaborate—it is already the basis for currently collaborating towns to review.

It is important that the Select Board understands what we have identified as critical components to the FY 24 plan, including 1) exploration of microtransit connections to RTAs, 2) challenges identified in the final report on Making the Connections program, 3) possible technical assistance from the MPO and 4) acknowledgement that Sudbury is now, with experience, much more professional in what we

do. Networking and discussing transportation with neighboring towns, as we have done over the past several years, has positive outcomes whether or not a town can complete a pilot.

Alice mentioned that in the case of Newton, 80% of their funding has come from grant sources outside of the town and 20% from the town itself. Actual rider fees account for about 20% of the town's allocation. It was stated that it is important to mention that we continue to make modifications to the program, apply for additional grant funds, engage the MPO for technical assistance and monitor user activity. Discussion continued on the timeline for program details one year, two year and five years out.

Dan supplied an update on re-registration for the Go Sudbury! Uber and taxi programs We now have 100 Uber signups and 154 taxi signups to date. The prior program had 117 Uber registrations and 187 Taxi registrations so the change in policies and copays have not had an adverse effect on signup.

Meeting Minutes

Transportation Committee meeting minutes for July 27 were reviewed. Bob moved and Alice seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Dan took a roll call of the votes of the five members present. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, September 7, at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment

Kay moved to adjourn the meeting, Debra seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bob Lieberman