

Sudbury Transportation Committee Minutes draft

Wednesday, July 27, 2022, 10:30 AM

Dan Carty, Chair, called the virtual meeting to order with roll call at 10:32 AM

Core Members Present

Dan Carty, Chair; Deb Galloway, Adam Duchesneau, Bob Lieberman, Alice Sapienza, Kay Bell

Core members absent - none

Advisory members present - none

Advisory members absent

Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix, Representative Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Beth Suedmeyer, Silvia Nerssessian, Mary Warzynski

Others present

Ana Cristina Oliveira, Linda Faust, Lynn Puorro

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 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

Dan was next on the roster and was present to take the minutes.

Administrative business

The State Legislators have extended the use of remote meeting capabilities through the end of March 2023. Dan told group that if anyone felt we should be meeting in person to let him know and we could discuss in a future session.

The Making the Connections meeting scheduled for earlier this week has been postponed. Adam noted that he would query the group and pick a date for reschedule.

Action Item Follow Up

1. A meeting with the MPO Technical group has been set up by Alice for August 9 and Adam, Alice, and Dan will be in attendance.
2. Dan reported that the number of riders that have utilized both the Taxi and Uber programs was 10.
3. Dan queried group to see if anyone had additional feedback for Alice and the MPO report; Alice reported none.
4. Dan reported that feedback from the group was incorporated into the new Uber and Taxi signup forms and that they would be reviewed later in the meeting. Dan also reported that we had 49 people sign up on the new Uber form and 58 on the Taxi.
5. Dan notified Deb and Ana Cristina they had been granted access to the new Uber and Taxi data sheets.

Updates and Discussion

1. Adam provided a brief financial update; we have not yet received the June invoice from JFK taxi so there had been no significant change in status since our last meeting.
2. Dan commented that the GO Sudbury! Communication that the town sent out looked fantastic and inquired as to who created it. Adam responded that Leila Frank took the initiative to compile it. Kay commented on the professionalism and appreciated Leila's skills and added that the group could benefit from training on how to describe the graphics and incorporate into online versions for those with vision problems. Dan offered to send Leila a thank you note on behalf of the Committee.

Conversation ensued about the map with pin in the graphic taking the place of the exclamation point in GO! Sudbury.

3. The August 1 cutover was discussed next. Ana Cristina stated that in conversation with Adam and again confirmed, nothing would have to be reloaded in the Uber dashboard in preparation. Ana Cristina thought we were good to proceed and that she had already helped numerous people over the phone and had also sent out hard copies of the applications. Ana Cristina noted that she received positive comments on the language that was sent out as it was easy to understand but noted that people were getting confused with the links and their labels and placement on the page. Details were discussed between Ana Cristina and Dan and Dan stated he would make the applicable changes right after this meeting. Bob and Kay asked some clarifying questions on whether or not people were clicking links or cutting and pasting.

Kay also noted feedback she heard from a resident at The Coolidge and some information they had received which seemed to be in conflict with our program. Ana Cristina stated that she had reached out to The Coolidge and sent an email. Kay shared that she had received feedback about someone that may be abusing the program and was not sure what to do with that information. Alice recommended that she speak with Ana Cristina. Ana Cristina confirmed and stated she did not want to talk about specific riders in a public forum. Dan agreed.

Deb then commented that we should keep in mind many people probably access these registration pages with their phone and they should be compatible. Citizen Linda Faust was recognized and commented on the information being shared at the Coolidge. Ana Cristina confirmed that she was in contact accordingly. Dan inquired of Adam about when the copay changes would be made in the Uber system and Adam said he would do them the morning of August 1. Ana Cristina asked Adam about CrossTown Connect and Adam confirmed they were a go for August 1 to limit rides to 20 per rider per month. Bob asked if communications about ride limits and copay changes had already gone out and Adam stated yes. Dan thanked everyone for their work to get ready for the August 1 cutover.

4. Dan asked Alice if he missed anything with the MPO, MAPC or anything else. Alice replied that we were in an interim phase with MassDevelopment and that we don't know what we will get in terms of taxi funding. She also noted that she had not yet explicitly mentioned Annex Transportation to Tim Kelly. Dan stated that we would have to discuss Annex Transportation in some detail in an upcoming meeting. Kay inquired about any legal work to be done and Adam confirmed it was in progress and close to completion. Some specifics were discussed about ride volumes and how we could get out of contract with one week prior notice. Adam suggested that we get Annex in for our next meeting.
5. Next up were the deliverables from the April 5 Select Board meeting. Dan summarized by saying the Board was looking for a recommendation from us as well as a level of commitment from partner towns if we were to approach this regionally. The goal was to have this done before end of summer. Dan added we would not want to delay too much as we could miss the planning cycle for the coming fiscal year, and we would need to come to consensus on our recommendations. He asked the Committee for input.

Alice started and reiterated for a number of reasons she preferred the third option i.e., the larger regional effort. She added that the August 9 meeting with the MPO Technical Assistance team would be pivotal in what we could present to the Select Board. Dan asked some questions which Alice clarified. Dan noted that from a resource perspective there were newer requests of the Town that were not available in detail when GO Sudbury started. Dan shared some detail of the three scenarios presented at the April 5 meeting. Kay then added that she was in favor of the third option as well and speculated that those working on the Sustainability and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives in Town could be supportive of our work. Deb supported the third option and stated that regionalization could help with sustainability. Bob concurred that developing a regional approach and working with the MPO

route planner was a good idea; this could help sustainability, as well as the disabled and financially needy. Adam asked does the third option include the part time transportation coordinator. Dan stated yes. Adam then added that the third option might be a hard sell to Town meeting even with the support of the Select Board, but we should keep trying to progress with it. Discussion ensued about the challenges of asking for staff and budget; Adam stated that multiple departments were understaffed and there were calls for 15 to 18 new positions besides this one. Dan confirmed and added that he thought the larger regionalized effort was the right option, but we might have to work our way up to it. Alice agreed that a time phased approach was the way to go. Dan stated that in our next meeting we should get a timeline together of what it may look like. Deb agreed. Kay added that this was in line with sustainability and equity efforts and while it currently was helping those with greatest need it could expand to the general population. Alice noted that was what happened in Newton.

Next meeting

The next meeting was set for Friday, August 12, 2022, at 10:00 AM

Minutes

The minutes of July 14, 2022 were reviewed. Alice moved and Bob seconded the motion to accept the minutes. Dan took a roll call of the votes of the six members present. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Kay moved and Debra seconded the motion to adjourn. Dan took a roll call of the votes of the six members present. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dan Carty.