



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, November 4, 2022

10:00 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, Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: Linda Faust, Ana Cristina Oliveira, 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 10:01 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 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 began the meeting with a "Good News" update that the Town was awarded a Mass Development grant in the amount of \$222,336 including the neighboring towns of Acton, Bolton and Stow for taxi and livery funding. See Financial update below for further details.

Financial Update: Alice gave a summary of the grant process and the committee thanked her for her efforts to secure this grant opportunity. It was noted that it took over four months to hear from the agency and now each town will need to execute the agreement to move forward. Funding should be available thirty days from the agreement being signed by all the towns involved, Sudbury will give JFK

Transportation the first right of refusal for WAV rides and Annex Transit will serve as an additional service provider. Reporting requirements and performance toward the program goals will need to be identified and a process put in place to accumulate the relevant data. It was again reiterated that this grant funding is specific to taxi and livery only and can't be used for Uber expenses.

Brief discussion on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) scope of work and trying to set up meeting with the MPO and route planner. We need to demonstrate that we are moving forward with partnering towns in collaboration effort with RTAs and demonstrate a proof of concept for future funding opportunities. Action items included review of Community Transportation Planning System documents. Debra and Ana Cristina will take the lead in communicating with the MWRTA and a question was raised to consider regionalizing the Sudbury van program.

Dan has developed a document showing current run rates per month and the "burn rate" for the program. He shared his screen as discussion followed and the document will be updated to reflect the recent award from Mass Development. There is still a concern on program funding for Uber. The current monthly spend is approximately \$4,000 and the question was raised as to whether there would be adequate funds available through the fiscal year end.

Survey Results: Dan led the discussion on both qualitative and quantitative data that was collected. Taxi results include 162 riders that have signed up for the program and 77 responded (48%) to the survey ranking questions from 1-5. Alice will review the qualitative comments and do a survey analysis. With regard to the Uber program, there are 126 riders signed up and 67 responded or 53% of the ridership. Bob mentioned that there was an overall 50% response rate to the surveys. Debra voiced her concerns about constructive feedback and a need to share that information with both the taxi companies and Uber. One specific Uber concern was their response time, and it was suggested that we need an additional contact person. In addition it was suggested that we consider quarterly meetings with Uber representatives in the future as well as efforts to work with MWRTA. It was noted that Alice and Adam have the primary contact with Uber and the taxi companies.

Sudbury Foundation: Discussion continued regarding whether the committee thought it was a good idea to approach the Sudbury Foundation for funding as the landscape has changed because of the grant. Their program awards on a quarterly basis (i.e., 1/1, 4/1). We will need to follow up based on monthly expenditures as well as consider another ask at Town Meeting for funding from free cash in the amount of \$100,000.

Policy Update: A brief discussion followed concerning the current policies for taxi rides and to consider whether there should be co-pays instituted as with Uber rides and to more closely monitor ridership to avoid misuse of the program.

Dan shared the Taxi data and mentioned that the number of riders is up and that Uber ridership is fairly flat and stable. Riders appear to be willing and able to share in the cost of the program. Debra had raised a question as to whether we could use the Sudbury van to go to medical appointments in neighboring towns. It should be noted that Uber is considerably less expensive than a taxi ride at \$19 as opposed to an average taxi ride of \$75. In addition, several riders have gone over the 20-ride limit per month. There is a need to circulate steps to be taken if people go over the limit and re-issue

a communication to be worked on at next committee meeting. It was also mentioned that Debra should communicate with those individuals offline.

Select Board Presentation:

Dan recommended another meeting with the Select Board to formalize funding request on November 29th and we need to get on the agenda. We will follow up on MPO update and the impact on FY 2024 as well as unique rider update. Dan led a discussion on Select Board goal and briefly described the process that takes place. We were pleased to find out that Transportation is a top priority for the Select Board in their goals for the upcoming term. It was mentioned that there will be a Sudbury Doing Good Fair event at the Goodnow Library on Saturday November 5th and the Transportation Committee will share space with the Council On Aging to distribute information concerning the Uber and Taxi programs and how to register.

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of October 12th were reviewed: After sharing his screen for this, Dan requested a motion for acceptance. Alice moved to accept and Kay seconded, and roll call agreement was unanimous.

Next Meeting:

The group set the next Transportation Committee meeting for Friday, November 18th at 10:00 AM, by Zoom.

Actions for Next Meeting:

- Focus on presentation to the Select Board

Adjournment:

Alice moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:28, Debra seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.