



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, January 20, 2023

11:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Adam Duchesneau

Advisory Group Present: None

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

Guests: Ana Cristina Oliveira, Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV), Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 11:31 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 Debra Galloway co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk: Bob volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates: Dan summarized the major topics for today's discussion:

- Review status of Select Board 2023 Annual Town meeting warrant article regarding GoSudbury!
- Update and discussion of 2022 Transportation Committee Annual Town Report.
- Follow up action items from previous meeting with Select Board
- Annex Transit available services
- Go Sudbury! Ridership and financial data
- MWRTA Update

Update On Recent MWRTA Meeting: As a follow up to last month's Transportation meeting, Alice, Adam and Debra met with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) new director, Jim Nee, to ascertain the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) interest in collaborating. A request was made to explore the possibility of scheduling a meeting with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

contact Jonathan Belcher to identify the finalization of the “cherry sheet” funds availability currently believed to be approximately \$75,000 net of all payments to be potentially disbursed. It was clarified that the Town of Sudbury makes payments to the MassBay Transit Authority (MBTA) which, in turn, makes payments to the MWRTA to cover salaries and van expenses run out of the Senior Center.

Finance Update: Dan shared his screen and led a discussion with regard to the December expenses incurred noting Tommy’s Taxi was \$2,561, JFK Transportation was \$2,004 and Uber was \$3,419, or \$7,984 total. This monthly total was less than the average of approximately \$11,900 but not unusual for the month of December. It should be noted that there are \$26,270 remaining in available funds with mention that the program will run out of funds in February 2023 without additional funding. Alice noted that 20% of the Uber rides in the most recent month were to healthcare/medical appointments.

Discussion then turned to co-pays and radius (geofence) concerns. Alice confirmed that the mileage parameters were zero to five miles (0-5), five to ten (5-10) and over ten (10) with related co-pays of \$3, \$5 and \$15. A question was raised concerning rides “within” Sudbury and within five miles should be a \$3 co-pay. A further discussion is warranted about distances based upon geofencing, and Adam will follow up on the issue. The new changes to monthly ride limits of 6 one-way rides for Taxi service and 4 one-way Uber rides will go into effect February 1st.

Warrant Article: At the next Select Board meeting of Tuesday, January 24,th it will be decided as to whether the Board will move the article forward or not. The article (FUNDING OF GO SUDBURY! TAXI AND UBER TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS FOR FY2024) states: “to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or to transfer from available funds, the sum of \$150,000, or any other sum or sums, for the purposes of the continued operations of the GoSudbury! Taxi and Uber Transportation Programs, including all incidental and related expenses; or act on anything relative thereto.”

Based on the outcome of the Select Board meeting, a motion was raised by Debra Galloway and seconded by Kay Bell and unanimously approved by roll-call vote to empower Dan Carty to submit a Warrant article on behalf of the Sudbury Transportation Committee to request \$150,000 of town funds for continuation of the GoSudbury! Taxi program.

Annual Town Report: Dan shared his screen and the Committee reviewed edits and comments received by Dan directly. Discussion ensued as to content and the fact that this report is meant to be transparent and summarizes the activity of the committee and not deemed to be a political statement. It serves as a review of meeting minutes and actions taken based on comments received. After further discussion and several additional edits, a motion was raised by Alice Sapienza and seconded by Debra Galloway with unanimous approval by roll call vote to submit the Transportation Committee Annual Town report.

Annex Transit: Discussion began as a follow up to a previous committee meeting concerning the use of a Beta group to schedule rides with Annex and report back to the group. Concerns were raised with regards to medical rides versus Uber type rides, caps, and reasonable accommodations. A question was asked if riders will need two different accounts and ensuring that CTC can manage this on

our behalf. Ana Cristina mentioned that she has several riders in mind for the pilot program as we are looking to roll out this program as equitably as possible when the MassDevelopment funds come in. The issue of using a voucher system was brought up and will need to be deferred until next committee meeting when more data are available. It was decided to move forward with the pilot program ridership and Ana will give those riders instructions as to contacting CTC and scheduling a ride. Debra mentioned that she was working offline on cost structure and other options for the taxi program and Dan requested that we defer that conversation until the next meeting.

Other: Follow ups to be addressed at the next Transportation committee meeting include 1) Review and discussion of policies and procedures, 2) Ensuring that geofencing for Uber is set up properly (Adam Duchesneau) and 3) Additional thoughts and recommendations concerning vouchers (Debra Galloway).

Next Meeting: The group agreed on the next Transportation Committee meeting for Friday, February 3,rd at 10:30 AM, by Zoom

Adjournment: Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:39PM, Kay seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.