

2022 Annual Report Submission SUDBURY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Sudbury Transportation Committee continued to work diligently in 2022 to serve the neediest Sudbury residents with two programs. The first is the Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program, started in 2020 with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) grant money for those aged 50 or older, 18 years old+ with a disability that limits driving, active-duty military, or military veterans, those with a financial need, or essential workers requiring transportation for work. The second is the Go Sudbury! Uber Rides Program, funded by a Community Compact Cabinet grant (*Making the Connections*) for the same target groups, started in 2021. Briefly, in calendar year 2022, 996 one-way taxi rides were provided—split between partners JFK Taxi in Natick and Tommy’s Taxi in Framingham—and 2,499 one-way Uber rides were provided.

The Committee began 2022 with a carryover of approximately \$30,000 of program funding remaining, mostly from allocated Meadow Walk mitigation funds. In January the Committee planned for and submitted a warrant article for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting asking for \$100,000 to continue the program. The Select Board unanimously approved to bring the article forward with the understanding it may be withdrawn should they instead elect to appropriate ARPA funds. The Select Board also requested that the Committee develop create a business plan showing low, medium, and higher transportation offerings. Committee members in January also met with TransAction Associates and CrossTown Connect dispatch services to DISCUSS DISPATCH SERVICES RELATED TO the Go Sudbury! Offerings taxi Programs NOT CLEAR? In February conversations with the schools brought to light that METCO families in Mattapan may be outside of the program radius and thus not able to take advantage of transportation services; discussions with Uber proved that they indeed were within the service area. Council on Aging representative Sandy Lasky announced that she was stepping down from the Council on Aging and thus would not be able to continue with the Committee. Member Doug Frey introduced the Committee to Annex Transit in Chelmsford as another option to provide wheelchair accessible rides. The crafting of the business plan continued, and the Committee discussed asking for technical assistance from the Community Transit Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In March, Maynard and Concord, communities participating in the second MAPC grant project that had not been able to use their allocated funds, voted for them to be reallocated to the Go Sudbury! Programs (\$22,678.20). Additional Further funds were requested and approved by both the Council on Aging and Select Board (\$11,366 of Meadow Walk mitigation funds). The Committee welcomed Bob Lieberman was welcomed to the Committee as the new Council on Aging representative, and March ended with the creation and distribution of a survey to 185 Go Sudbury! riders.

In April the Committee prepared for the presentation of the \$100,000 Town Meeting warrant article which was supported by the Select Board with a 4-1 vote. The Committee submitted a grant proposal to the Sudbury Foundation and presented their 5-year business plan to the Select Board, which recommended building a regionalized model for transportation. Member Doug Frey announced he was moving out of town and thus would be leaving the Committee as the Commission on Disability representative. May was particularly busy and began with the \$100,000 Town Meeting request passing nearly unanimously. In other funding related matters, 1) the Committee was advised by the Sudbury Foundation to withdraw its request and submit at a later date due to other submissions, 2) A multi-town application for MassDevelopment(MassDev) taxi grant funds was started, and 3) the Select Board opted to not allocate ARPA funds to the Transportation Go Sudbury! Programs. Kay Bell was assigned to the Committee as Doug Frey’s replacement from the Commission on Disability, and the Committee applied for technical assistance from the Metropolitan Planning Organization(MPO). The Committee analyzed transportation services data, including ridership, survey, and financial information, to determine what changes to make

to the programs to ensure sustainability. The Select Board reviewed the charter of the Committee, adjusted membership to move Department of Public Works DPW Director Dan Nason to an advisory role, and empowered the Committee to act for another year. They also requested that a business plan recommendation be provided by the end of the summer. Discussions with Annex Transit commenced in June with regards to regarding partnering with Sudbury. In an effort to continue learning how other communities manage tackle transportation challenges, the following discussions were undertaken with: Sandra Robinson, Executive Director of the Needham Community Council, a non-governmental organization that runs transportation offerings through Lyft; Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning, City of Newton (services provided by Via); and Colette Aufranc, Wellesley Select Board and representative on the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Advisory Boards, as well as Chair of the MWRTA Finance and Audit committee.

~~in an effort to continue learning how other communities manage tackle transportation challenges, Sandra Robinson, Executive Director of the Needham Community Council, a non-governmental organization that runs transportation offerings through Lyft, was engaged to learn about their program. Really?~~

As 2022 entered its second half, based on the prior analyses, the Committee voted to cap Uber and Taxi rides at 20 one-way rides per rider per month, to increase Uber copays, and to change age eligibility from 50+ to 60+ effective August 1st. All users were asked to re-register and to accept the new policies and procedures. Also in July the MassDevelopment grant proposal was finalized and submitted. The grant included Sudbury, Acton, Bolton, and Stow, and requested nearly \$250,000 in funding. August saw the Committee meeting with the MPO Technical Assistance group; an agreement between Sudbury and Annex Transit being signed and the director of Annex attending a committee meeting; and a majority of riders re-subscribing after the policy changes. With 100 Uber signups and 154 taxi (close to the original 117 and 187 in ridership), the Committee concluded that the change in policies and copays did not have an adverse effect on enrollment.

In September, the Committee set aside \$1,000 of funds for “crisis transportation requests” that would be communicated to the Town Social Worker and managed through the Senior Center. The Committee also voted to resubmit a grant proposal to the Sudbury Foundation, and engaged with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA). MWRTA liaison Deb Galloway met with the new Administrator of the MWRTA, James Nee, as well as Assistant Administrator Eva Willens. The discussion focused on the Go Sudbury Pilot Programs, the MWRTA Microtransit programs (using Catch Connect app) and the possibility of linkage through Sudbury, to existing fixed routes in Marlborough and Framingham.

The final quarter of the year started with the Committee sending another survey to Uber and Taxi riders to gather program feedback. In outreach actions, members attended the Sudbury Foundation Nonprofit Coffee roundtable event at the Sudbury Grange Hall, and the Chair spoke with the Interim Town Manager and Select Board Chair to discuss transportation funding options in the upcoming budget season discussions. The Committee's financial analysis indicated showed that, at the current spend rate, funds would run out in March, 2023 rather than June, 2023. Feedback received from the Sudbury Foundation acknowledged stated that they tend to not fund operational items and that a \$100,000 request might be too high. Survey results were gathered in November and revealed showed that most (88%-90%) riders in both programs were very/extremely satisfied. Good news followed when Sudbury was awarded a MassDevelopment grant in the amount of \$222,336 to be shared with the neighboring towns of Acton, Bolton, and Stow for taxi and livery funding - Sudbury's share was approximately \$87,000 – and the Select Board voted Transportation as one of their 6 high priority goals for 2023. Outreach activities included members working a booth at the Sudbury Doing Good fair at the Goodnow Library, members

meeting with Uber representatives to discuss the program to date and possible enhancements, as well as the crafting of a scope of work for the MPO/CTPS (Central Transportation Planning Staff) technical assistance. The MAPC published “Learning from the Taxi, Livery, and Hackney Grant Program” featuring Sudbury data along with Medford and Somerville. From November into December, transportation was a topic of discussion at multiple Select Board meetings. Significant data requests were made by Select Board members as well as instructions to consider establishing a voucher program before the ride programs could be supported. The request then changed to one where Town staff work with the Interim Town Manager to make a recommendation on if or how to fund the programs in FY2024. Director of Planning and Community Development Adam Duchesneau presented a request for \$150,000 in FY2024 funds. As of the end of 2022 the Select Board has neither approved nor denied the request. 2022 ended on a positive note with liaisons meeting with CTPS to discuss the scope of the technical assistance requested as well as the signing of a contract with Annex Transit. Financially the program ended the year with \$26,720 of funds remaining, very close to the 2022 starting figure of \$30,000.

The Transportation Committee, composed of both volunteers as well as Town staff, is proud to see our work on behalf of residents continue to show positive results.

Respectfully submitted,

SUDBURY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- Daniel E. Carty, Chair
- Kathleen Bell
- Robert Lieberman
- Alice Sapienza
- Adam Duchesneau
- Debra Galloway

Transportation Committee FY 22 - July 2021 - June 2022			
REVENUES			
\$ 13,150.00	MAPC Grant 2, Part 2	10/1/2021	
\$ 35,000.00	Meadow Walk Mitigation	11/16/2021	
\$ 22,678.20	MAPC Grant 2, Part 2, Additional funds from Maynard & Concord	3/1/2022	
\$ 11,366.00	Meadow Walk Mitigation	3/22/2022	
\$ 100,000.00	2022 ATM Article 14	5/2/2022	
\$ 182,194.20	TOTAL		
EXPENSES			
\$ 4,950.00	CrossTown Connect Dispatch	July 2021 - June 2022	
\$ 30,554.40	Tommy's Taxi	July 2021 - June 2022	
\$ 36,682.00	JFK Taxi	July 2021 - June 2022	
\$ 43,453.63	Uber	July 2021 - June 2022	
\$ 2,345.59	Sudbury return to Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) MassDevelopment	June 2022	

\$ 117,985.62	TOTAL		

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