



# Town of Sudbury

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

## Sudbury Transportation Committee

### Minutes

Friday, March 17, 2023

11:00 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: Carmine Gentile

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Scott Nix, Bethany Hadvad, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: 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 11:05 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 summarized the major topics for today's discussion—not necessarily in the following order:

- Update on the AARP Grant
- Floor open to Representative Carmine Gentile
- Town meeting presentation
- Annex Transit
- Minutes of February 24, 2023, meeting
- Finances review
- Recap of recent meeting with CTPS
- Action items to follow up from prior meeting.

**AARP Grant:** Alice updated the committee members and noted this is a demonstration grant for a six-month period that will look for new innovative programs that will lead to substantial change. In

addition, the desire is that this will identify opportunities to collaborate with the regional transit authority in more programs. The discussion then turned to the MWRTA “Catch Connect” pilot program for accessible van service. The program will run 3 days a week from noon until 6PM as fixed routes continue to be problematic. Debra noted that this is a free program as an incentive to try it out for a period of time and the number of rides is limitless. Adam mentioned that Cold Brook Crossing is working on a loop shuttle for future implementation. Carmine updated the group that he had sent the new Town Manager Andrew Sheehan ideas about items to address with regard to transportation for funding from the State Legislation. It was mentioned that instead of a focus only on the Go Sudbury program that it would be more beneficial to be general concerning grant/funding opportunities. Debra mentioned that any program that could bolster interaction with the MWRTA is beneficial. A thought for follow up was how to ~~the~~ operationalize the transportation initiatives.

**Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS):** Alice led the discussion about the ongoing work with Blake Acton. The route planner and his analysis concerning fixed routes and loops. It was noted that we have a tremendous amount of data and analysis of taxi rides plus Uber data whose services are critical to the Sudbury residents.

**Finance Review:** Dan shared the screen with the Excel file provided by Adam, with activity noted in a new column for the MassDevelopment funds in the amount of \$87,000 being received. Dan summarized the funding spent to date through February for taxi rides, an average monthly spend of \$6,386 and a remaining balance of \$77,706 which is estimated to be available to support the program through December 2023. He continued to summarize the money remaining from the prior town allocation of \$100,000 which now primarily funds the Uber program. Funds spent to date through February, an average monthly spend of \$3,139 and a remaining balance of \$22,562 which is estimated to be available to support the program through August 2023. MassDev money can also be used for Annex Transit service, both as supplement to the taxi program when JFK vehicles are unavailable and as reasonable accommodation (for persons with a disability) for the Uber program.

**Annex Transit:** Ana Cristina gave an update on rider feedback from the pilot program. Rider #2 gave positive feedback concerning the driver being on time and very polite. The first rider was not happy with their experience, but we continue to look for additional riders to test the service before we make any decisions going forward as to the timing to launch this new program. Adam did have a follow up conversation with Francis Mugo, the owner of Annex, to discuss the van door and ramp not being secure as well as a need for tighter on time scheduling. Francis acknowledged the concerns and will speak to the driver. It was noted that this program will be a companion to Uber and provide a reasonable accommodation. There was further discussion on how to “operationalize” Annex and book rides, publicize and agree on a start date to roll out the program. It was decided to defer that until the next committee meeting.

**Town Meeting:** Dan led the conversation concerning the upcoming Sudbury Town Meeting on May 1, 2023, with specific discussion around Article 14 funding in the amount of \$150,000. Dan mentioned that it was approved by the Select Board 4:1 in support of the article. Dan shared his screen and discussion followed on the content to be included in a Power Point presentation including 1) opening comments and quotes from riders, 2) history of the program, reminders, livable Sudbury and the

Master Plan relationships, 3) the status of the program today and what has changed, 4) where are people going ,survey's done and 5) where is the program going forward. It was noted that perhaps a glossary of terms be prepared for reference purposes.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, March 31 at 10:30 (Zoom).

**Minutes:** Review of the minutes from February 24, 2023, were deferred until the next scheduled meeting

**Adjournment:** Dan listed the follow up items to be addressed:

- Send a draft of the Town Meeting presentation.
- Send the Power Point deck.
- Operationalize Annex

Alice moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 PM, Debra seconded, and roll call agreement was unanimous.