



# Town of Sudbury

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

## Sudbury Transportation Committee

### Minutes

Friday, February 16, 2024

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Bob Lieberman, Adam Burney, and Cheryl Wallace

Core Members Absent: Debra Galloway

Advisory Group Present: Dani Marini-King, Town of Sudbury Sustainability Coordinator

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Silvia Neressian and Mary Warzynski

Guests: Jim Nee, MWRTA Director, and Linda Faust

**Confirmation of Quorum:** The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, D. Carty as chair convened the meeting. D. Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being broadcast live via zoom and recorded by Sudbury TV. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present with only D. Galloway being absent.

**Selection of Clerk:** D. Carty was assigned the duties of Clerk for the meeting.

**Administrative Updates:** D. Carty passed along thanks to Janet Lipken of the Senior Center for filling in for Deb Galloway while she was out. He also noted that all signatures were obtained for the committee annual report and the report was submitted.

**Action Item review:** D. Carty outlined action items from the last meeting:

- A. Burney updated committee on the disbursement of MAGIC funds to partner towns, status of dispatching funds owed, discussion with the Town Manager regarding a possible intermunicipal agreement (IMA) with neighboring towns, and the status of extending the contract with Annex Transit along with the JFK Transportation and Tommys Taxi.
- A. Burney also reported that we had received the first half of the state earmark funds in the amount of \$31,250, and he would work with the town accountant to create a new account to place such funds. B. Lieberman inquired as to expiration date of funds and whether or not they could be rolled over to the next fiscal year. D. Carty stated he had discussed with State Representative Gentile, and they agreed to revisit in April.

- D. Carty noted that he was able to set up an Uber account with no method of payment and said he would discuss with D. Galloway upon her return. He also updated the group that he would use the next month's Uber file to identify medical locations by latitude and longitude as previously discussed.
- D. Carty inquired as to who would be attending the upcoming Community Transit Grant (CTG) training. A. Burney and A. Sapienza replied in the affirmative.
- A. Sapienza noted that A. Burney may want to talk to the Town Manager regarding being added as a signatory for the CTG funds. D. Carty screen shared a document related to this topic.

**Finances:** D. Carty shared his screen displaying current enrollment and financial figures. He noted that the MassDev money had been extended and we were utilizing its availability accordingly. He recommended that we spend down the MassDev funds as well as the state earmark funds as they were timebound then reserve the Town meeting funds for later in the fiscal year. A. Burney suggested the idea of creating a revolving fund and discussion ensued.

**Catch Connect and MWRTA Update from Jim Nee, Director:** J. Nee introduced himself and then gave an update on the history of the MWRTA Route 20 Shuttle. He stated that it was funded with state funds, was intended to be a one-year pilot, and ridership was poor. He elaborated on potential reasons for the low ridership and stated that although the end coincided with the COVID-19 outbreak that was not the reason it was halted. Discussion ensued about potentially bringing it back and what that would involve. He stated that he would prefer three-year grants programs over one year. He added that the MWRTA had hired a fixed route planner who would look into this route and many others. D. Carty introduced D. Marini-King, town Sustainability Coordinator and asked if there would be any grant opportunities in the sustainability space. D. Marini-King responded she did not know of any offhand but would certainly investigate. C. Wallace stated that she was not aware this had been a one-year pilot and assumed it ended due to COVID. L. Faust inquired as to the possibility of paratransit being included in any future shuttle plans and J. Nee stated any future shuttle would have complementary paratransit service. L. Faust inquired as to the state of traffic lights and crosswalks and D. Carty responded that those topics were not within J. Nee's realm.

J. Nee gave a general update on the state of budgets for regional transit authorities (RTAs) like the MWRTA and how assessments and state matches functioned. He noted that for fiscal year 2026 they would be able to increase services by 25% to 30%. He then discussed the upcoming CatchConnect pilot and stated they were targeting a start date of July 1, 2024, and added that the MWRTA had a number of advertising mechanisms including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram along with paid advertisements on Google and Facebook as well as an MWRTA newsletter. He summarized by saying even with those multiple advertising methods we should consider a direct multi-lingual mailer as suggested by C. Wallace.

Discussion ensued about the possible hospital shuttle program (including the emergency ride home option) that was submitted for a Transit Innovation grant. A. Sapienza provided details about the emergency ride home option. L. Faust asked if Annex Transit would be used in that case and A. Sapienza stated that it would likely be Boston-based taxi companies. J. Nee then stated that the Innovation grant program was very heavily subscribed, so we were not guaranteed winning funding. D. Carty inquired when we may know and J. Nee speculated it could be anywhere between a couple of weeks and a couple of months. D. Carty thanked J. Nee for his attendance today and general partnership with Sudbury.

**Minutes:** D. Carty presented the minutes of February 2, 2024, with corrections from A. Sapienza, R. Lieberman, and D. Carty. There was a brief discussion about the proposed edits. Motion to approve minutes as displayed with edits was made by A. Sapienza and seconded by A. Burney. Roll call was made, and was unanimous.

**Next meeting:** After discussion, the next meeting was set for Friday March 1, 2024, at 9:30AM. D. Carty noted that he may need to flex this session and that the committee could discuss meetings dates and times via email if needed without violating open meeting law.

**Adjournment:** Dan asked for a motion to adjourn; A. Burney moved, and A. Sapienza seconded. Roll call was made and was unanimous.