



# Town of Sudbury

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

## Sudbury Transportation Committee

### Minutes

Friday, May 17, 2024

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Dani Marini-King

Guests: Jim Nee (MWRTA), Linda Faust; Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV)

**Confirmation of Quorum:** The statutory requirements, as to notice having been met D. Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:34 AM. 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 as a quorum was present and A. Burney was made Zoom cohost.

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

**Administrative Updates:** D. Carty thanks the committee for their flexibility in changing meeting times. A. Sapienza notified the committee that they received a grant from the Community Transit Grant program and not the Community Innovations Program for the hospital shuttle and that this would be an alternative means for individuals to get to medical care appointments. D. carty did a screen share of the award letter. A. Sapienza added that the Innovation program had many more applicants than expected but this particular initiative was worth funding as was shown by money being found from the Community Transit Grant. J. Nee (MWRTA) added that the Innovation Grant program was oversubscribed by 3 to one and the award was definitely a testament to the application that was put together and that there were almost no applicants outside of RTAs who were awarded.

A. Burney next shared that State Representative Carmine Gentile was able to extend the state earmark through June of 2025 and that we were actively spending from it for GoSudbury! B. Lieberman asked for clarification of how and when the money needed to be spent. A. Burney clarified that we would have to spend our own money before June 2025 then earmark funds would come to us in the form of a reimbursement.

D. Carty informed committee that he was in correspondence with various students regarding civics projects. B. Lieberman thanked A. Burney for his response to emails the committee received and C Wallace thanked D. Carty for attending the recent Commission on Disability meeting. D. Carty informed committee that they all have had their terms extended one year by the Select Board and summarized the recent Select Board discussion regarding transportation. He added that the Select Board suggested that as part of our communications we include a survey of what transportation options residents were looking for. A. Burney summarized the recent meeting he had with officials from Acton, Stow, and Catch Connect regarding dispatch, IMA, and TMA. He added that bringing Littleton into the mix was discussed. D. Carty asked when our current dispatch agreement expires, and A. Burney said September.

**Catch Connect:** D. Carty introduced the topic of Catch Connect and that his hope was the bulk of the conversation today would be in regards to the July 1 launch and June 6 launch event. J. Nee outlined the approach to be taken with the Sudbury Catch Connect program. Service will be available Mondays through Fridays, noon to 6pm, and he expected low ridership at first which would help work out any issues that arise. He noted that because of our existing programs we had a captive audience and that the information already released is wonderful and outreach should continue. He said the town should do their communications but that the MWRTA would pick up advertising costs on Facebook and local media. A. Sapienza asked about “mode shifting,” how to get people to move from Uber to Catch and that we had a bimodal distribution in that people generally rode GoSudbury within town or close to 25 miles in or towards Boston. J. Nee suggested we highlight the difference and advantages of Catch. D. Galloway said we had email distribution lists for our rider base. Committee members then summarized who they were currently in communication with or who was planned. A. Burney asked about age limit on riders who can use the service independently, J. Nee confirmed ages 12 and up. A. Burney asked how we should communicate to those 13 to 18 and D. Carty noted he is in communications to both school districts. J. Nee discussed the safety and background checks drivers go through. A. Sapienza next discussed data and metrics we would need to provide to as part of our grant and that our focus is on providing mobility for individuals who otherwise wouldn't have it.

J. Nee wanted to know where he could park a vehicle for the June 6 launch event and lay out promotional materials. D. Galloway summarized her plans for the event. A. Sapienza suggested that members answer questions attendees might have and to possibly do a demonstration of the Catch phone application. Related logistical discussion ensued.

Guest Linda Faust, 189 Boston Post Road, asked where the event was being held and if a Zoom option was available. D. Carty answered that it would be in person at the Senior Center. A. Burney added that SudburyTV would be recording the event for future broadcast.

D. Carty shared his screen and reviewed the draft event flyer with the committee. J. Nee asked for feedback on the flyer and if there was anything his team should add. Suggestions included adding a Sudbury-specific URL, a QR code, and information about the launch event June 6. A. Sapienza asked about possibly bringing the vehicle to various housing developments in town. J. Nee said the vehicle would be in town in late June as the drivers needed to become familiar with the town.

Guest Linda Faust, 189 Boston Post Road, noted that communications should occur directly to housing developments in town.

D. Carty summarized the conversation and recited a list of action items and owners.

**Go Sudbury! Financial Update:** D. Carty noted that all of the financial figures were not in yet for April but noted that taxi costs were high again, just shy of \$10,000. A brief discussion ensued, and D. Carty added that the monthly financial review would happen at the next meeting.

B. Lieberman dropped from the meeting at this point.

**Uber co-pay discussion:** Committee next discussed the possibility of raising the Uber co-pay amount for in-Sudbury rides while Catch Connect was available as an option to push riders towards that less expensive option. A. Burney volunteered to review the Uber Dashboard to make sure that we had the flexibility to adjust prices as desired.

**Meeting minutes:** D. Carty announced that minutes review would be tabled until the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 31, at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

**Adjournment:** Dan asked for an adjournment, A. Sapienza moved to adjourn; seconded by D. Gallo-way. Roll Call vote was unanimous to adjourn.