



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 31, 2024

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present:

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

Guests: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV) and Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan as chair convened the meeting at 10:33 AM. He made an announcement that this was a public meeting, there should be no expectation of privacy, and the meeting was being broadcast live via Zoom and recorded by Sudbury TV. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Adam agreed to be co-host.

Selection of Clerk: Debra volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates: Dan recapped the action items from last meeting and agenda items for discussion:

- Finances
- Catch Connect Launch Event
- Minutes
- Adam Burney's Report on Intermunicipal Efforts

Election of Committee Chair

Adam nominated Dan Carty to be Committee Chair, seconded by Debra, voted unanimously.

Financial Update

Dan Carty shared on the Zoom screen the Finance report which includes the charges for all Taxi and Uber rides in April. He reviewed the expenditures and remaining resources available for the Go Sudbury programs.

Dan asked Adam about adjusting the payment made to February bills from Town Meeting money to the Earmark funding due to expiration of those funds in June. Because the Earmark funding expiration was extended Adam explained that they made the decision not to do a journal entry because the Earmark funding would be spent, and we would need to use the Town Meeting funding anyway.

Dan stated that overall spending was still above normal for April at \$13,763 vs. \$14,970 in March, with a typical expense in the past being a total of \$8,000-\$9,000 per month.

The cause of increased expenses in April was mostly due to Taxi service expenses. Dan wondered if the new Catch Connect service might help alleviate some of the costs, but it was noted by Alice that most of the Taxi rides are long distance to Boston, with some to other towns, such as Framingham Hospital. Adam wondered if there could be any savings by combining riders going to a common destination. Alice reported that would be unlikely given that most of the Taxi rides are to Boston. Debra mentioned the variability of everyone's medical appointment times would make it challenging. The new Boston Hospital shuttle will hopefully assist in reducing the cost of the Taxi program.

Bob Lieberman asked about the stated need to expend the first half of the Earmark funds, before receiving the second half of the funds. Adam reported he originally thought this was the case, but he has since learned that we don't need to expend the first half of the funds to receive the second half.

Dan shared that there are now 399 unique individuals utilizing either the GoSudbury Taxi or GoSudbury Uber programs. There are 275 individuals in the Taxi program: 247 in the Uber program.

Bob mentioned that if spending continues at the same rate, the Earmark will be used up soon, or could be used up by today (May 31).

Dan asked if anyone knows when we might start the new grant-funded Hospital shuttle service? Alice explained that we do not know yet, and we don't know when the state will actually provide the funds. Dan mentioned that when the time comes, we will want to transition Taxi riders over to the Hospital shuttle, just as we are going to encourage Uber riders to use Catch Connect. It is not clear that we will be able to sustain the GoSudbury Taxi program as is. Alice stated that we need to communicate with taxi riders about this other option coming. We may need to consider tighter ride caps and co-pays for Taxi service.

Intermunicipal Agreements

Adam attended a meeting with representatives from the towns of Acton, Bolton, Littleton to discuss each town's needs and expectations and how to proceed. Adam reported that Acton as the lead town, created an RFP for shared dispatch services.

involved in trying to plan for an Intermunicipal Agreement and possible new Transportation Management Agency (TMA). Acton hired Nelson-Nygaard consultants to assess the viability of in-house

dispatch and the answer was a clear no. They are considering a shared dispatch among the towns and would issue an RFP for that. They are interested in a parallel TMA perhaps established over the next 5 years.

Dan stated that the current agreement for GoSudbury dispatch will expire in at the end of August.

Catch Connect Launch Event

Dan will post a public meeting for the Transportation Committee for the Catch Connect event on June 6 as a quorum of Transportation Committee members is expected to attend the event. Dan shared the invitation to the event with the Sudbury Public Schools, Lincoln-Sudbury High School, the Chamber of Commerce, the library, the Sudbury Housing Authority, and the Sudbury Housing Trust. Debra reported that the Launch event invitations have been shared with many groups, including: the Council on Aging, the Friends of Sudbury Seniors, the Commission on Disability, the 3 main affordable housing developments in town, in the GoSudbury Uber email list, the Sudbury Senior Center email list, and has been posted on Patch. The event will be shared with the Clergy Association, and Park and Recreation department as well. Cheryl Wallace shared the event information on the Sudbury Bulletin Board, the Neighbor page, and other Facebook information pages for Sudbury.

Alice suggested that information be shared with Cold Brook Crossing, which Dan Carty volunteered to do, as well as the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Police. Debra informed the Sudbury Police chief about the event and will reach out to the DPW.

Dan reported the SudburyTV will be filming the event, and he has already been interviewed as he was supposed to be out of town on the event day. His schedule shifted and he will now be able to attend the event. Alice noted that it might be helpful to provide information to attendees about downloading the Catch Connect app and how to use the service. Debra will reach out to MWRTA Administrator Jim Nee who might already have something prepared from other Catch Connect town launch events.

Linda Faust asked if people who cannot use the app will be able to participate in the program. The good news is that there is a dedicated phone number to reserve rides that is equivalent to using the app to reserve a ride.

Bob wondered if the steps to download and use the app might be put into writing for people to take with them. Debra will look into this.

Regarding implementation of the Catch Connect service, Alice reported that we will want to meet with Jim Nee soon to discuss gathering program data for grant reports.

Dan asked about having a specific tab or link on the MWRTA web site that brings people to information about the new Catch Connect program. Debra will follow up with Jim Nee about this.

GoSudbury Uber Program

Adam shared his screen so that the Committee members could see the Uber dashboard. Adam showed the various options for changing the Uber programs co-pay amounts. During the Catch

Connect hours of service, Uber ride co-pays can be increased to incentivize use of the Catch Connect service. The higher prices for Uber travel in Sudbury will be implemented during Catch Connect hours of 12:00-6:00 PM during the weekdays. Dan commented that we want to make sure to share this information with Uber riders.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting date will be Monday, June 10 at 11:00 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment: Dan asked for a motion to adjourn; Alice moved, and Bob seconded. Roll call was unanimous, and the meeting ended at 11:28 AM.