



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2024

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present: None

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix and Carmine Gentile.

Guests: Tyler Terrasi (MWRTA), Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV), Linda Faust and Kay Bell (Sudbury residents)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan as chair convened the meeting at 10:31 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. Debra agreed to be co-host.

Selection of Clerk: Bob volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates:

Agenda Updates: Dan mentioned that Alice had a previous appointment scheduled and would have to leave the meeting shortly and turned the discussion over to her. Items to be discussed included 1) metrics to use for the Sudbury Catch Connect program and the MWRTA Boston Hospital shuttle to report back to the MA DOT. Alice said she sent a revised document to Daniel Fitch of the MWRTA, and she is waiting to hear back from him. 2) incorporation of vouchers for the Boston Hospital shuttle's Emergency Ride program (which could be applied from the Uber dashboard) and how to set this up for Sudbury residents.

Debra mentioned that originally it was thought that with respect to vouchers we could get a report similar to the current one, showing user rides across the three geofences, and the total number of vouchers could be limited by Sudbury staff. After a follow up meeting it was determined that Uber could not supply that data currently, and vouchers would have to be assigned to each geofence, thus making the task of capping rides not practicable. Possibly new software to assign vouchers as Sudbury

had hoped might be available around mid-2025. Based on this information Dan suggested that we don't push to rush into a new voucher system at the moment. On another topic Adam mentioned that the Town Manager has signed a one-year extension for the Uber contract, and we are awaiting the counter signature from them. Dan mentioned that he could write a "script" for Debra to let riders know their number of rides and if they are approaching their limit. Alice left the meeting at 10:46.

GoSudbury. A discussion followed concerning the increase in the annual cost of dispatch services we pay to the town of Acton (Acton proposed an increase from \$10,000 to approximately \$20,000 or a 100% increase from the current cost). As a potential alternative Debra and Adam spoke to the contact concerning dispatch services. They would need to know our budget and how much we spend on each program. They have a \$1,200 minimum, which we would meet in order for dispatch services to work for them. They would contract with each of the taxi services utilizing their software and methodology. If feasible, they would give us a bulk price rather than an a la carte structure. Bob asked about the sharing of data and confidentiality, and Adam mentioned that this data is public information. Based on this it was suggested that we extend the current contract with Acton for a one-year period while we continue to explore alternatives.

MWRTA Catch Connect and Hospital Shuttle. Dan introduced Tyler Terrasi from the MWRTA for an update on the new programs. He reported that the programs were going well, and he would follow up with Jim Nee also of the MWRTA for further details on the roll out and progress of the programs. It was further mentioned that early reports indicated the programs were going well and people were embracing the new services. Debra mentioned that we were looking for detailed data at the end of September that would represent three months for the Catch connect program.

Finances:

Dan shared his screen with the financial spreadsheet and mentioned that the expenses for the month of August were slightly below the previous months, but we also acknowledged that the ride caps were changed effective the first of September on a going forward basis, The taxi ride costs were still high but down from the previous months. The Uber costs did remain consistent. Some discussion followed about the allocation of Town meeting funding from prior years and Adam mentioned he would follow up on this. The discussion turned to the balance of available funds from our resources and the committee once again agreed that the current burn rate was not sustainable.

Select Board Presentation. Dan began the discussion and mentioned that he would follow up to get on the docket for an upcoming meeting. Discussion followed about the vision of the program and the importance of this service for a core group of Sudbury residents. Another survey to hear from the residents was suggested to reinforce the importance of the program. This would serve as the groundwork to help guide what should be recommended for the future. Ridership data from the MWRTA would further support the success of the program. Providing short term data and reinforcing the importance of the program as well as the vision of the program and sustainability are key to the presentation. Adam mentioned that the program began as an emergency service during Covid and how it has evolved. The financial aspects of the program would need to be addressed. Cheryl mentioned that she believed the MassGeneralBrigham interhospital shuttle was not currently in service and that

would be brought to the attention of Daniel Fitch for follow-up. We are also looking for feedback from the Council on Aging (COA), and the Commission on Disabilities (COD) in support of the program.

Other Items: Dan shared the recent press release that was circulated concerning the Catch Connect program and the Hospital shuttle service. Take aways and follow ups from today's meeting include 1) Uber medical destination data and ridership information, 2) metrics for MWRTA, 3)follow-up with Jim Nee of MWRTA on whether the three-year grant program was still a possibility and 4) continued discussion with GoGo on potential dispatch services.

Minutes:

Dan shared the minutes from July 26th and reviewed input from other committee members. Adam motioned to approve minutes as amended, Cheryl seconded the motion, roll call was unanimous for acceptance. The minutes from September 6th were then shared on screen. After reviewing any comments Bob motioned to approve minutes as amended, Debra seconded the motion, roll call was unanimous for acceptance.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is 10:30 AM on October 4, 2024, via Zoom.

Adjournment:

Dan asked for a motion to adjourn; Adam responded, and Cheryl seconded the motion. Roll call was unanimous, and the meeting ended at 11:41 AM.