



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, January 17, 2025

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, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Maura Carty, and Dani Marini-King

Guests: Kay Bell

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements, as to notice having been met D. Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:31 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, a quorum was present.

Selection of Clerk: A. Burney was assigned the duties of Clerk for the meeting.

Review of Action Items: D. Carty provided updates on the following Action Items:

- ✓ Meeting with the MWRTA—D. Carty, A. Burney, and D. Galloway met with Jim Nee of the MWRTA to review potential future opportunities for collaboration and funding for the provision of transportation services. There is capacity and desire from the MWRTA to continue and expand the work with the Town of Sudbury. Mr. Nee will explore some potential opportunities for continuing to fund/expand existing programs (i.e. Catch Connect and Hospital Shuttle).
- ✓ The Intra-Municipal Agreement for the \$152,000 of ARPA money was signed.
- ✓ The questions for the previously discussed Flash Vote are being finalized and in conjunction with A. Burney will be submitted to the Town's Communications Officer
- ✓ Go Sudbury! Policies and Procedures have been found and discussed with legal. There is no issue with modifications or alterations. It would ultimately be best for a review from legal upon the completion of modifications.
- ✓ An analysis of taxi data is forthcoming that will explore potential benefits of reducing taxi ride opportunities during the days/times that the Hospital Shuttle is operating. This is based on the recommendation of Assistant Senior Center Director Jill Dube.

A. Burney updated the Committee on the following items:

- ✓ The Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Acton for dispatch services was signed by the Town Manager. The Town is in receipt of the bill for services which will now be paid. The cost of the services is significantly higher than the previous contract and it may be beneficial for the Committee to explore alternative services.
- ✓ The reimbursement paperwork for the FY24-25 Earmark has been submitted. The Town awaits payment.

D. Galloway provided updates on the following items:

- ✓ Outreach to Longfellow Glen is an ongoing item that is being worked on by D. Galloway and her team.
- ✓ Leila Frank has completed improvements to the Transportation Options page of the Town's website. This will be distributed through the Town's social media.
- ✓ Research continues on the taxi voucher programs offered by other communities. Existing research appears to indicate that most communities that offer these programs have staff dedicated to the program. More to come at a future meeting.
- ✓ D. Galloway announced that she will be retiring on 28 February 2025.

Administrative Updates:

Go Sudbury! Financial Update: D. Carty provided an update on the financials for the Go Sudbury! Program. With the infusion of ARPA funding the program has the ability to operate for close to 16 months following current trends.

Annual Report: D. Carty presented the draft Annual Report. The Committee agreed they would like to see the data and financial information depicted after the signatures to be brought into the body of the report before the signatures. A. Burney made a motion to approve the Annual Report as amended. A. Sapienza seconded the motion. Roll Call vote 6-0 to approve without discussion.

Taxi Ride Limitation: Assistant Senior Center Director Jill Dube has proposed the following:

- ✓ Restricting universal access to the taxi program for Go Sudbury! to Monday and Friday to assist in creating a demand for Hospital Shuttle ridership.
- ✓ D. Carty has received the taxi data and will be conducting an analysis of the taxi ridership on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to identify the potential impact.
- ✓ This change will require a significant amount of notice to ensure folks have a reasonable amount of notice to plan their travel or appointment times.
- ✓ There should be exemptions for emergency rides based on objective criteria as adopted by the Transportation Committee.
- ✓ Further discussion to come at a future meeting.

Flash Vote: D. Carty noted that he would discuss the project with A. Burney the following week. A. Sapienza noted that she proposed some alterations that would keep the questions consistent with previous surveys and this is an important item going forward to allow for true comparisons.

Black Cat Training: A. Sapienza attended training put on by the MADOT for the new grant management software Black Cat. After this training A. Sapienza has decided to retire from submitting information to the MADOT. A. Burney notified the Committee that he would submit information as necessary.

D. Carty inquired if the Go Sudbury! Registration had been modified to include additional columns per previous discussions. D. Galloway indicated that Jill Dube had made the additions and they were functioning in the desired manner.

Future Work with the MWRTA: D. Carty gave an overview of the existing grants that the Transportation Committee has with the MWRTA (Catch Connect and the Hospital Shuttle), specifically noting that both are coming to an end in the summer of 2025. As noted above, members have met with the MWRTA to identify possibilities for continued funding.

It was explained that while there are additional grant opportunities using these for the continuation of an existing pilot or other program is generally frowned upon. In order for a program to qualify the program would likely need to expand or evolve. This would most likely apply to the Catch Connect Program as it is a local transit option and the expansion of local service is likely the most impactful. The following are some options that the Transportation Committee may wish to consider for that program:

- ✓ Longer hours of service, perhaps something like Monday through Friday 8 AM to 6 PM.
- ✓ Provide service to a larger area, some areas to consider are
 - Emerson Hospital
 - Framingham Hospital Area
 - Nobscot Area of Framingham
- ✓ Both longer hours and an increased service range.

The discussion explored why certain areas may be more beneficial than other areas and how a combination of longer hours and more connections may be the best option. A. Sapienza expressed support for service to Framingham Hospital as the data shows that this is a popular destination. She also expressed concern about the expansion of service and the potential for confusion of what service is being provided under what program. C. Wallace indicated that the Nobscot Area in Framingham would be a good choice of service expansion as the Framingham Catch Connect stops in that area and there are additional shopping areas.

D. Galloway noted that the Senior Center Van service provides a lot of transportation trips to neighboring communities for medical appointments.

R. Lieberman indicated that he is supportive of the expansion of service and feels it is important that the Transportation Committee not permit the search for the perfect program stop the provision of a good service. He would rather have a successful program than try to have all the programs for all the people

Specifically, R. Lieberman feels that the Committee should look at making easy changes to the Hospital Shuttle program to try and increase ridership. If these changes don't work perhaps the program is not viable for Sudbury.

The general agreement of the conversation is that the Transportation Committee should identify what program does it want to keep operating and how does it make this happen?

Public Comment: Kay Bell of Old Lancaster Road commented that she would like to thank the members of the Transportation Committee for the work that they do and the thought put into the programming decisions.

Minutes Approval: The minutes of 20 December 2024 were presented with some minor grammatical changes. A. Sapienza motioned to approve the minutes with the noted changes, A. Burney seconded. The Committee voted 6-0 to approve.

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

Adjournment: Dan asked for an adjournment, A. Burney moved to adjourn; seconded by A. Sapienza. Roll Call vote was unanimous to adjourn