

2024 Annual Report Submission SUDBURY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
January \_\_, 2025

The Sudbury Transportation Committee continued to work diligently in 2024 to serve the neediest Sudbury residents by continuing to offer the two Go Sudbury! program (Uber and Taxi) as well as introducing two new programs, the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) CatchConnect service as well as a Boston Hospital Shuttle run in collaboration with the MWRTA and Town of Wayland. The Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program was started in 2020 with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) grant money for those aged 50 or older, 18 years old+ with a disability that limits driving, active-duty military, or military veterans, those with a financial need, or essential workers requiring transportation for work. The Go Sudbury! Uber Rides Program was initially funded by a Community Compact Cabinet grant (*Making the Connections*) in 2021 for the same target groups. On July 1, the committee launched the **GoSudbury Catch Connect Shuttle** (curb-to-curb transportation in partnership with the MWRTA), funded via a Community Transit Program grant, and August 6 saw the launch of the **MWRTA Boston Hospital Shuttle, funded by a FY24 Regional Transit Innovation grant from MassDOT (Department of Transportation)**. In calendar year 2024, 1,346 one-way taxi rides were provided, split between partners JFK Taxi in Natick, Tommy's Taxi in Framingham, and Annex Transit of Chelmsford MA, and up from 846 rides in 2023. 1,467 one-way Uber rides were provided, down from 1,530 in 2023. By year-end 313 people were enrolled in the taxi program and 295 in Uber, with 129 individuals signed up for both programs, resulting in 479 unique individual enrollees, as compared to 250, 219, 110, and 359 in 2023. Through year-end, xxxx one-way rides were provided via MWRTA CatchConnect and xxxxx one-way rides via the Boston Hospital Shuttle. The Committee met 24 times in 2024, details of those meetings can be found here <https://sudbury.ma.us/transportation/meetings/>, and details of all services can be found here <https://sudbury.ma.us/transportation/>.

The Committee began 2024 with an available funds balance of \$155,569.71, consisting of \$6,961.33 remaining from 2022 Annual Town Meeting article #14 funds, \$132,741.86 remaining from 2023 Annual Town Meeting article #14 funds, and \$15,866.22 remaining from the MassDevelopment Grant awarded in November of 2022. In January the committee welcomed new members Adam Burney (Town Planner) and Cheryl Wallace (Commission on Disability member), worked to submit a Transit Innovation Grant application for a proposed hospital shuttle with the MWRTA and the Town of Wayland as well as to get an extension to the previously awarded MassDevelopment grant, and submitted its 2023 annual town report. In February, the committee learned that the Select Board had approved \$17,000 in local ARPA funds to act as a community match for the upcoming MWRTA Catch Connect program, as well as \$31,250 of the awarded \$62,500 of state earmark funds, and began planning the CatchConnect and Hospital Shuttle programs with MWRTA, which continued into March.

In April, the committee worked with the Town to extend contracts with taxi providers and ~~discussed discussions~~ began regarding possible intermunicipal agreements and creation of a possible Transportation Management Association with Acton, Bolton, Stow, and Littleton. Planning for the MWRTA CatchConnect and Hospital shuttles continued in April, and in May the committee learned through State Representative Gentile that the state earmark grant had been extended through June of 2025 and would be paid to the town in a reimbursement fashion after they paid for transportation services. Planning for a June 6 CatchConnect launch event ensued as well in May, and Dan Carty was voted to remain as committee Chair. June saw the CatchConnect launch event at the Fairbank Center, the Transportation Committee charge and members extended for a year by the Select Board, and the final grant report for the MassDevelopment was discussed and submitted.

In July, the CatchConnect service was launched, the Select Board extended the contract with Uber, outreach regarding the CatchConnect service was delivered to the Coolidge and other housing developments, and the state announced that all public transit, including CatchConnect and the planned hospital shuttle, would be free to

riders through the fiscal year. Planning for the Hospital Shuttle continued, and in August that service was launched. Rider feedback for both the CatchConnect and Hospital Shuttle was discussed and shared with the MWRTA, the former “wildly exceeding expectations” per the MWRTA. The committee partnered with the Sustainability Coordinator on aspects of the Municipal Vulnerability preparedness program as well. In September, the Select Board rated transportation as one of its high priority goals for the year after a year off of their list, planning for the “Sudbury Doing Good” festival commenced, and Chair Carty participated in the Boston Region Connectivity Study on behalf of the town. Communications regarding available services continued by ways of a press release ~~form from~~ the town, and in an effort to shift riders to the CatchConnect and Hospital Shuttle ride caps were reduced to 6/month for taxi and 4/month for Uber.

Representatives from the MWRTA joined the committee in October to discuss program performance and applicable grant reporting and the committee planned for a rider survey to learn how the CatchConnect program was performing. The committee planned for a meeting with the Select Board which happened in November, during which it was conveyed that there would be no budgetary allotment for transportation initiatives in the coming year but that additional one-time ARPA funds may be available. Survey results were reviewed with the committee in November, where approximately 50 riders gave feedback on the CatchConnect and Hospital Shuttle services. An issue with the Uber program was identified and discussed whereas the committee voted to increase the in-town Uber co-pay from \$3 to \$5 per ride, and the committee and MWRTA representatives participated in the “Sudbury Doing Good” event at Curtis Middle School. Taxi ride caps were also further reduced to 4 rides per month per use. In December, the Select Board awarded \$135,000 of APRA funds to the committee for transportation services.

Financially the program ended the calendar year with \$201,326.73 of funds remaining, made up of \$135,000 of ARPA funds, \$31,250 of state earmark funds and \$32,892.55 of 2023 Annual Town Meeting funds. As of the end of 2024 the town has requested but not yet received the \$31,250 state earmark funds but has included them here as no issues in receiving them are expected.

The Transportation Committee, composed of both volunteers as well as Town staff, is proud to see our work on behalf of residents continue to show positive results.

Respectfully submitted,

SUDBURY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Daniel E. Carty, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

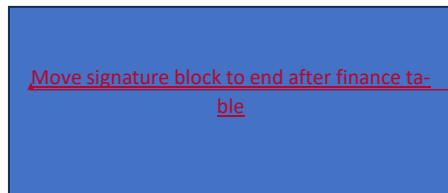
Adam Burney \_\_\_\_\_

Debra Galloway \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Lieberman \_\_\_\_\_

Alice Sapienza \_\_\_\_\_

Cheryl Wallace \_\_\_\_\_



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Transportation Committee FY 24 - July 2023 - June 2024		
	<u>*Note this is for fiscal year not calendar</u>	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>		
\$ 54,869.70	MassDevelopment Grant	
\$ 31,250.00	State Earmark	
\$ 48,900.88	2023 ATM Article 14	
<b>\$ 135,019.88</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
\$ 5,775.00	Town of Acton Dispatch FY24	July 2023 - June 2024
\$ 61,549.90	Tommy's Taxi	July 2023 - June 2024
\$ 27,561.00	JFK Taxi	July 2023 - June 2024
\$ 4,069.11	Annex Transit	July 2023 - June 2024
\$ 36,065.57	Uber	July 2023 - June 2024
<b>\$ 135,020.58</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Addendum:** DAN WILL MOVE THIS DATA UP INTO THE FIRST PARAGRAPH AFTER THE RIDERSHIP #S - NOTE

Because our primary goal is “serving the neediest residents,” we monitor the demographics of those in the GoSudbury programs to ensure this goal is being met. Note that riders can qualify under more than one criterion:

- Adults 60+ years, 23%
- Limited financial means, 20%
- Limiting driving ability, 57%
- 18% medical rides using Uber (all taxi rides are for medical appointments)