



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, October 18, 2024

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Bob Lieberman

Advisory Group Present: None

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Chief Scott Nix and Carmine Gentile, Maura Carty

Guests: Linda Faust (Sudbury resident)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan as chair convened the meeting at 10:32 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: Adam volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates: Dan noted that Jill Dube will be the new Outreach and Assistant Director at the Sudbury Senior Center. He added that a Transportation update was planned with the Select Board on November 6th and the Sudbury Doing Good festival would be November 2nd and he booked a table for the Committee. Next he mentioned that he had created a survey along with QR code and passed it through a screen reader but asked that others try it as well. Dan screenshared the survey document. Resident Linda Faust asked if it was a PDF document with graphics and Dan said it was an online page. Dan added there was a MAGIC regional meeting on October 29th and he was going to try to attend. Adam noted he was as well.

Go Sudbury Finance Dan noted that full financials for September were not yet complete but Uber for the month was \$3,215 and speculated that the limiting of rides may be having some effect. He added that he was now pulling Uber data weekly and sending to Adam and Deb so that riders could be contacted if they were close to or at the monthly ride limit. Alice noted that rides seem to be trending towards longer distances. She added that taxi costs were nearly \$8,000 for September. Dan told Adam that he had heard from the Town Manager that we were OK to use the approximately \$6,900 we had left from the 2022 Town Meeting money. Adam said it was accounted for.

Discussion ensued regarding the \$17,000 of ARPA funds that had been set aside for the Catch Connect grant match.

Taxi Co Pays

Alice started the conversation by stating she is not aware of any towns offering free taxi rides as Sudbury is and thought that adding co pays in the range other towns are doing would be appropriate. Adam agreed. Dan asked if anyone knew of an example of how a town managed the co pays. Alice stated Weston had subsidized rides and the copays were managed by their Council on Aging. Deb added some information on how Wayland managed taxi rides. Deb added that Weston had a dedicated Transportation coordinator on staff. She stated that without a dedicated resource we should strive for something simple. Adam suggested a fixed copay scenario that was paid in advance. Discussion ensued and pivoted to how dispatch, payment, and ride caps would work. Credit card payments and their feasibility were discussed next. Cheryl suggested that the taxi be available for when the hospital shuttle is not running. Dan volunteered to storyboard out how a copay system may work, which then could be discussed with our dispatch service. Adam let the group know that he had been in contact with Acton about dispatch possibilities and that if we wanted dispatch we would have to pay for a year.

FlashVote, Rider Survey, and MassDOT reporting

Dan let the committee know that the FlashVote service was available should we want to utilize it. Alice noted that survey data would be very useful for the next MassDOT report due in November. Alice next discussed the performance metrics to be included in the MassDOT report and noted the process of reporting has changed as the state website no longer worked. Dan screenshared the metrics document Alice had put together. CatchConnect ridership was discussed, including 205 rides given in August. Common pickup and drop-off locations were called out. The draft survey was screenshared again and possible changes discussed.

Select Board Meeting November 6th.

Dan began this conversation by saying we are currently running four programs that all would run out of funding around the same time. With budget season closing in quickly this committee should make recommendations to the Select Board but ultimately they would have to decide what if anything moved forward as additional funding would be required. Dan then asked the committee what they think we should recommend to the Select Board. Deb wanted to make sure we told them who uses the programs and why. Being close to the riders and knowing their needs she would like to see the taxi program continue in some fashion to serve them. She also noted that the MBTA assessment may have to increase to pay for services through the MWRTA. Alice agreed with Deb and added she would like to see the MWRTA take over the grant writing. Adam stated he would like to see Catch Connect expand and replace Uber, and that taxi should continue with more restrictions. He also stated we should consider working with the town Social Worker and investigate commuter shuttles. Cheryl liked the Catch Connect for local rides and the Hospital shuttle for longer rides as long as more options were available. Dan summarized the comments from the committee and added he would like to see services managed long term by the MWRTA and not this committee. Alice suggested we tie our efforts to the town's master plan to show our progress and that the Select Board talk directly to the MWRTA. Dan then asked the committee to help provide current data for the various programs and committee members obliged. He stated he would draft a short presentation for the Select Board and share it out in advance of the next committee meeting.

Action Items

Dan reviewed a list of action items from previous meetings and noted action items from this current meeting.

Minutes

Dan noted no minutes were ready for review and they would be reviewed in the next meeting.

Next meeting

The committee agreed the next meeting would be Friday November 1, 2024, 10:30AM.

Adjournment

Adam motioned to adjourn; Alice seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 11:48AM.