



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, MARCH 21, 2025

9:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present:

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

Guests: Jill Dube (Sudbury Senior Center Asst. Director/Outreach Coordinator)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 9:02 AM. Dan 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. Dan assigned Adam Burney as co-host.

Selection of Clerk: Bob was assigned the duties of Clerk for the meeting.

Agenda topics: Dan next recommended the committee discuss the following topics (not necessarily in that order):

- Uber voucher discussion
- Grant Funding
- Finances (February data)
- Review of Minutes

Dan opened the meeting by updating the committee with regards to the status of remote meetings. He mentioned the Governor was to sign a two-year extension through fiscal year 2027 and would be presented to the Sudbury Town Manager for approval. If approved this would allow remote participation to continue for public meetings. There was a brief discussion reminding the committee that the Uber and Taxi contracts were due to expire at the end of June 2025 unless extensions were executed.

Finances: Dan shared his screen with the most recent updates to include activity for February 2025. Overall, the monthly spend was down significantly to approximately \$6,800 with Uber ridership at \$1,700 and taxi rides at \$5,100. Of note, there were 510 different people enrolled in the program. On a going forward basis, funds available from Town meeting article were approximately \$17,000 and ARPA funds were \$135,000. At this current level of activity, funds would be available well into mid-2026. Alice mentioned that she spoke with Jim Nee of the MWRTA to inquire about carryover funding for the hospital shuttle. It was noted that we would be transferring from free taxi on demand to new service (the shuttle), and slow Sudbury demand was the reason for requesting the carryover funding. Dan reiterated that the taxi contracts as well as Uber would end in June 2025.

Uber vouchers: A lengthy discussion followed with a number of talking points raised including 1) types of vouchers (daily vs. monthly) 2) vouchers do not roll over, 3) 25 mile geofence in place, and 4) potential for concierge service for those visually impaired. Jill mentioned that planning for this change is key in establishing the future of the program. Alice opened up a discussion to include how vouchers are issued. She noted her review of the last six months of data that showed 30-40 individuals a month are using Uber services. The conversation continued on the issuance, frequency and timing, with Dan mentioning the vouchers would be issued electronically. The mechanics of funding would be key to the continued success of the program. The conversation then moved to the transition from the existing taxi program to Uber and possible methods were discussed. Cheryl raised the question as to whether Dial- A – Ride was an option for Sudbury residents and that there were perimeter issues concerning accessibility. Next steps included Dan to follow up with Town Manager to discuss how much time would be needed to support such a program change as we would be taking away dispatch service as it now exists. Alice mentioned that she would follow up with Jim Nee on expansion of the program as we move to the voucher system and the need for wheelchair accessibility.

The final point raised was to develop a communication plan to riders that the Catch Connect and Hospital shuttle programs were scheduled to end in June 2025 and August 2025, respectively.

Minutes: Dan shared his screen as the committee reviewed three sets of minutes as follows:

Minutes of October 18, 2024: After review of proposed edits received and discussion, asked for a motion to approve as amended. Alice moved to approve, and Adam seconded that motion; roll call was unanimous.

Minutes of February 14, 2025: After review of proposed edits received and discussion, asked for a motion to approve as amended. Bob moved to approve, and Adam seconded that motion; roll call was unanimous.

Minutes of March 7, 2025: After review of proposed edits received and discussion, asked for a motion to approve as amended. Cheryl moved to approve and Adam seconded that motion; roll call was unanimous.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for 10:30 AM on April 4, 2025, via Zoom.

Adjournment: Dan stated he was thankful for the committee's work and asked for a motion to adjourn; Adam moved to adjourn. Alice seconded the motion, and roll call was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM.