



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, June 13, 2025

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Nickole Boardman, Mary Brauer, and Cheryl Wallace

Core Members Absent: Adam Burney

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), Linda Faust, Kay Bell

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:33 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 Nickole Boardman as co-host. Dan stated that he would like to end a few minutes prior to 11:30 AM. Alice noted that she had a hard stop then.

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

Dan started by welcoming new members Nickole Boardman and Mary Brauer. He stated they both were recently appointed to the committee by the Select Board then asked members to introduce themselves. Dan offered to meet with Nickole and Mary offline to discuss the history of the committee.

Next Dan stated he had been in contact with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) regarding a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between them and the Town regarding the continuance of Catch Connect. The MOU was noted as in progress and that it would not hold up a continuance of service per the MWRTA. Dan said he would get an email going with the MWRTA, Town Manager, Planning Director Adam Burney, and Nickole as our MWRTA rep.

Uber vouchers and contract were discussed next. Dan recalled that Adam did not express concern over the Uber contract but that he would start a communication with Adam, Uber, and the Town Manager to attempt to get it resolved by the end of June. He asked Alice about any discussions she had with Adam regarding a voucher dollar amount. Alice said no decision was made but that Uber

had provided an analysis of 6 months of data that showed a median amount of \$26 and mean of \$32 and opined that \$30 may be the right amount. Dan next noted that he had scheduled a call with Jill Dube, Nickole, and the town Social Workers for June 3 to discuss how to qualify riders for vouchers and manage them accordingly, but the call was cancelled as town staff were all going to discuss first. Jill noted that discussion had not yet happened. Dan added that we were targeting July 1 as that is when Uber wanted us to convert to vouchers. Jill said she would work with Nickole to draft a communication to riders about the changes coming. Dan noted the changes would include both a change to vouchers as well as a tightening of qualifiers for the program, and without the details any communication should be drafted with these items blank for now. Discussion ensued regarding voucher amount, how many each rider would get, options for distribution, co-pays, and geofencing of ride area. Jill asked about how many unique riders we had per month and Dan said it was in the ballpark of 40 over the last few months. Alice stressed the importance of the social workers' input to these items. Dan said he would attempt to set up a call for Monday June 16 with Jill, Nickole, Health Director Vivian Zeng, and the town social workers to discuss specifics and would report back to the committee. Dan noted the importance of not having a quorum of committee members present during this and similar conversations so as not to violate open meeting law.

Dan asked for a motion to set the voucher amount at \$30 each with a number per rider per month and method of distribution to be determined. Alice moved; Cheryl seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous in support.

As far as what the changes to Go Sudbury! would look like Dan stated that would depend on the conversation with the social worker team. Alice stated that Catch Connect service would cost \$43,000 a year, and Dan added it could go up if we agreed on additional hours. With that he pivoted to the May monthly finances and screen shared the excel tracking document. He stated that Uber spiked a bit, up to about \$4,500 for May, while taxi charges were comparatively reasonable. He next gave a quick overview of the finances to members Nickole and Mary and said he would go into more detail when they met. He reviewed new enrollment numbers and current funding balances and added that there still may be money coming from the State supplemental budget. Alice noted that the changes to qualifications for the program would be based on financial need and Dan added those with disabilities. Committee members agreed. Jill asked about seasonality of rides, and discussion about riders going to Logan airport and Logan express ensued. Dan and Jill did quick overview of data analysis they did each week to notify riders if any non-qualified rides were taken. Mary asked about rides to Boston and Dan stated we operated within a 25-mile geofence, and that Uber did not allow for white-listing and black-listing individual addresses.

Next Dan screen shared a ride summary document put together by Alice. Alice noted that taxi rides for May were low compared to recent months and added that some people have not included their qualifiers which impacts the overall data segmentation. She also said it may make sense to remove Annex from our tracking as it is no longer being utilized. Jill asked if the Boston Hospital Shuttle is included, and Alice replied no. Alice did add that the Hospital Shuttle will continue to run as long as there is funding, and while the vast majority of riders have been from Wayland it will still be available to riders in Sudbury.

Dan suggested that the committee meet again in one week given all of the activity happening, even if it was just for a quick touch point. With that the committee agreed to meet at 10:30am Friday June 20.

Minutes for the meeting of April 18th, 2025, were screenshared and minor edits reviewed. Dan called for a motion to approve, Alice moved, and Cheryl seconded. Upon roll call vote the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public comment was called for, and resident Kay Bell of Old Lancaster Road stated that it would be helpful to riders to have a month's notice of program changes and asked that, if a first come first served approach to vouchers was utilized, could a waitlist be created to give riders missed in one month first option for the following month. Dan thanked Kay for the suggestions and noted that no decisions had yet been made regarding distribution of vouchers, but this would be taken into account. Alice also thanked Kay for the idea. Cheryl added that we should track people that took vouchers but did not use them. Alice noted that vouchers would not carry over from one month to the next. Cheryl stated that ideally riders could put vouchers back into the pool if they knew they were not going to use them.

Alice moved to adjourn; Cheryl seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:17AM.