



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, July 11, 2025

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Mary Brauer, Cheryl Wallace, Adam Burney

Core Members Absent: Nickole Boardman

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Maura Carty, Jill Dube (Sudbury Senior Center Asst. Director/Outreach Coordinator)

Guests: Linda Faust, Kirsten Wilcox (Town Social Worker)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:30 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 as co-host. Dan stated that he would like to end this meeting within an hour.

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

Transportation Budget and Service Updates

Dan announced that the governor had signed a budget allocating \$50,000 for Sudbury, thanks to Representative Gentile. He clarified that Catch Connect fares would remain free for now. The group discussed upcoming meetings with social workers and taxi companies to address voucher mechanics and wheelchair service options.

MWRTA

Adam noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MWRTA had been sent to the town for review, but we will look at increasing service hours. The committee discussed expanding the current 12-6 service hours to 8 am - 6pm. Dan did a quick calculation, using the 8 – 6 timeframe and \$30/hour/vehicle, and concluded that would cost \$78K/year. They agreed to seek an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MWRTA to allow for flexibility in hours and costs. The group also discussed connecting the service with existing MWRTA routes to improve accessibility to public transportation. Nikole is our MWRTA representative and will work with Adam and Dan to finalize the contracts.

Transportation Fair and Voucher Updates

Nina and Nikole will plan the upcoming Transportation Fair (mid- September). The group confirmed two upcoming meetings with JFK and Tommy on the 17th to discuss voucher mechanics and implementation details. They agreed to streamline the payment process for Uber bills, with Alice no longer needing to forward them as they are now paid automatically on the Town's commerce card. The committee also reviewed a draft communication to riders about upcoming program changes, tentatively scheduled to be published at the end of August.

Grant-Funded Program Communication Strategy

The team discussed the need to clearly communicate that the programs are partially funded through grants, which has resulted in changes to rider eligibility, program structure, and costs. They agreed to emphasize that the Catch Connect service will be free, addressing concerns about rider costs. The group also considered the broader impact of the program, including its potential to connect people with essential services like medical appointments, groceries, and social isolation support.

Transportation Services Application Simplification

The group discussed program eligibility and application processes for transportation services, focusing on Uber, taxi, and Catch Connect. They agreed to considering weekly vouchers instead of monthly, with priority given to medical, legal, and quality of life needs. Catch Connect service was confirmed to remain unchanged, requiring only MWRA registration, while existing Uber and taxi accounts would expire. Dan offered to create an online application system, and Kirstin agreed to follow up with Nina and colleagues on implementation.

Transportation Voucher Pilot Program

The team discussed implementing transportation vouchers for taxi and Uber services, with a focus on setting up a pilot program before the September 1st launch. They agreed to explore a sandbox environment for testing Uber vouchers, with Adam tasked to request this capability from Andy Willard. The group also reviewed plans to engage with taxi companies on the 17th to discuss voucher amounts and contract details, with Cheryl reporting positive progress in contacting a potential wheelchair accessible service in Framingham. The team set a \$30 monthly voucher amount for Uber rides and discussed the need to establish similar parameters for taxi services, while aiming to reduce current GoSudbury transportation costs from \$10,000 to a few thousand dollars per month.

Budget Approval and Meeting Updates

The group discussed meeting minutes and confirmed a follow-up meeting in two weeks on July 25th at 10:30. The conversation ended with a vote to adjourn at 11:30, and all members present voted in favor of the minutes with a 5-0 count.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the committee will be Friday, July 25, at 10:30 by Zoom.

Adjournment: Adam moved to adjourn; Alice seconded. Roll call vote to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.