



Town of Sudbury

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Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, June 20, 2025

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present:

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

Guests: Linda Faust, Nina Lurie

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, D. Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:31 AM. D. Carty 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. D. Carty assigned A. Burney as co-host.

Selection of Clerk: A. Burney was assigned the duties of Clerk for the meeting.

Review of Administrative Items: D. Carty updated the Committee on administrative items that were currently in process:

- D. Carty received information from Rep. Carmine Gentile that he has secured \$50,000 to be dedicated to the Go Sudbury! Program in the State Budget. These monies are included in the budget as approved by both the House and Senate; currently, they are awaiting the Governor's signature.
- D. Carty reminded members of the Transportation Committee to go to the Town Clerk's Office to be officially sworn in for the coming year after the recent appointment/reappointment by the Select Board.
- D. Carty noted that when communications come in to the general email address for the Committee he takes the initiative to respond. This is to create consistency of messaging and response.

Current Business: D. Carty introduced the ongoing business of the Transportation Committee as follows:

D. Carty outlined a recent very positive discussion with Senior Center and Health Department staff to discuss the future of the Uber and taxi programs currently operated by Go Sudbury!. D. Carty also noted that it is great that N. Lurie is participating in the meeting.

The MWRTA is working on finalizing the agreement to extend the Catch Connect Service beyond the end of the grant funding on 30 June 2025. N. Boardman updated that there will be a continuation of service without interruption. D. Carty noted this is an important item but not critical path. D. Carty will take the lead to get this over the line. A. Sapienza recommends that the Committee or Senior Center should inform folks about the continuation. D. Carty will work with the Town Manager's Office to further spread the word. N. Lurie will reach out to the Sudbury Housing Authority, the Coolidge, and Longfellow Glenn about this development to spread the word amongst the residents.

L Faust noted that things at the Coolidge are in flux and it can be challenging to get a hold of people. She offered to provide contact information offline if needed.

D. Carty noted that there was a call with the Uber team last week. There is not a hard and fast date for the contract to be updated and for the move to vouchers. D. Carty recommends a 30-day notice to riders with a 1 September 2025 date for the move to vouchers. This will allow July to be planning and August to be the notice period. N. Boardman noted that they have been working with the Health Department to develop qualification criteria and had expected the switch to be 1 August 2025 so September would be even better.

A. Sapienza noted that the Committee still needs to reach out to the taxi companies to discuss the shift away from Crosstown Connect dispatch and the potential change to taxi vouchers.

A. Burney questioned which programs are on the July/August/September timeline: taxis, Uber? He went on to note that the contract update for Uber is ready for signature and has been signed off on by legal. He questioned whether the contract should be signed or held off until the outstanding items have been resolved. It was left to the discretion of A. Burney to determine what is required to be completed.

D. Carty noted that the final moving part of this process is the meeting with the Health Department staff. N. Boardman indicated that she and the Senior Center staff have met with the Health Department staff, including the Social Workers. The conversation revolved around the qualifications and the potential limit on the number of users. Initially, the number 40 was being thought as a reasonable start for the maximum monthly users. A lot of the conversation revolved around the language to be used to describe the qualifications for use, including disabilities and income levels. Vivian Zeng, Health Director, had created a draft flyer of information that was a good start to the discussion. N. Lurie expanded upon this to include that the idea of holding a transportation resource fair was bandied about as a way to spread the word about the services that are available and how to access them. This could be paired with the Flu Clinic or other events.

During this meeting concern was expressed that if 40 users were issued vouchers at the beginning of the month and didn't use them it may block other users from having access as the monthly user cap would then be exceeded. The Committee discussed offering a variety of ideas for how to prevent

users from claiming vouchers without using them, including use bans, multiple tiers of voucher (vouchers can be assigned for 2 weeks at \$15, 1 month at \$30), waitlists, etc.

D. Carty indicated that he owes the Health Department a draft of the sign-up sheet that could be used for the future program. This is a Google form that writes out to a Google spreadsheet and it will give the Health Department the opportunity to see how this is currently done and to propose alternatives as may be necessary.

D. Carty brought the conversation back to the taxi program noting it is important to provide them with information on what is going on with the Go Sudbury! program moving forward. A. Sapienza interjected that dispatch and the individuals who rely on the service should be included in the notice. This should include working to shift those affected, those whom it would benefit, and those who might qualify for the Hospital Shuttle for the remainder of its service.

A. Sapienza questioned if the taxi program should be shifting to a voucher-based system as well. She went on to note that she is unaware of any other community that is currently providing no cost taxi rides. D. Carty opined that he envisioned that there will be situations where individuals need to take a taxi ride, including situations where a WAV ride is required, which are not available through Uber. A. Sapienza noted that there have been some challenges getting access to the WAV from our current vendors. C. Wallace questioned who was currently providing WAV rides. A. Sapienza noted that the information she receives indicates that WAV rides are frequently cancelled and she is unsure what service the individuals are using. D. Carty feels there is a need to discuss this with JFK and A. Sapienza stated that it warrants a further investigation into what other providers are out there. C. Wallace will bring this to the next Commission on Disabilities meeting for input. D. Carty will reach out to the taxi companies to discuss the future.

A. Burney noted that 1 September 2025 will be the withdrawal date from Cross Town Connect.

Take Aways: D. Carty will continue to work on the MWRTA MOU.

N. Lurie will reach out to the Sudbury Housing Authority, the Coolidge, and Longfellow Glenn to spread the word about the continuation of Catch Connect.

N. Boardman will inform her riders that about the continuation of Catch Connect.

A. Burney will process the Uber contract.

D. Carty will share the mock-up sign up page for the ride programs with the Health Department staff.

N. Boardman and N. Lurie will continue to work on the criteria for eligibility to qualify for vouchers and usage.

C. Wallace will investigate WAV options with the COD.

A. Sapienza and D. Carty will contact the taxi companies and communicate the upcoming changes to Go Sudbury! Program.

Minutes: D. Carty shared his screen as the committee reviewed a set of minutes as follows:

Minutes of June 13, 2025: After review of proposed edits received and discussion, asked for a motion to approve as amended. A. Sapienza moved to approve, and A. Burney seconded that motion; roll call was unanimous.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for 10:30 AM on June 27, 2025, via Zoom.

Adjournment: D. Carty stated he was thankful for the committee's work and asked for a motion to adjourn; A. Burney moved to adjourn. A. Sapienza seconded the motion, and roll call was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.