

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Friday, February 6, 2026

Committee Members Present:

Dan Carty (Chair)

Adam Burney

Alice Sapienza

Cheryl Wallace

Nickole Boardman

Mary Brauer

Public Attendees:

Linda Faust

Absent:

Jill Dube

Administrative Items

Meeting Notes

Mary Brauer completed notes from the previous meeting and will submit them to the group

Cheryl Wallace volunteered to take notes for this meeting

Dan Carty will send transcripts and AI-generated summaries to Cheryl Wallace

Communications and Outreach

State Representative Meeting:

Dan Carty reported on a 60-minute call with:

Ravi Simon (aide to Rep. Gentile)

Ms. Gallo (Chief of Staff to State Rep. Tracy Farley-Bouvier)

Tracy Farley-Bouvier represents a district in the Berkshires and is one of the leaders of proposed micro-transit legislation. The committee discussed Sudbury's transportation experience and offered support for the legislative effort.

RTAC Budget Priorities Letter:

The committee endorsed a letter to Governor Healey regarding transportation budget priorities, with emphasis on micro-transit funding. Alice Sapienza will send detailed budget analysis to Dan for distribution.

Citizen Inquiries

Responded to inquiry about whether CatchConnect goes to Logan Express (it does not)

Addressed concern about a canceled ride

Received query about transportation for disabled adults needing regular rides to Waltham

Voucher Program Updates

February vouchers have been set up
Jill is learning the voucher upload process for March
Technical issue noted with setting expiration times for last day of month
Dan will work with Jill to resolve the issue

Action Items Review

A summary of action items was presented and discussed.

Completed Actions

CatchConnect Bill: Payment processed (~\$33,000), check has been cut

Town Meeting Warrant Article: Select Board article submitted and approved for next town meeting

Annual Report Draft: Completed and circulated for review

In Progress Actions

Coldbrook Crossing Shuttle: Dan will follow up by phone
(emails unanswered)

State Earmark Application: Adam Burney to complete budget
portion of form within the next week

FedNor Medical Transport: Committee agreed to continue
pursuing this vendor for wheelchair-accessible transportation
despite limited response by vendor

Financial Report (Through December 31,2025)

Uber/Taxi Program

Current spending: Under \$1,000/month

Scaled back usage as expected

Recent billing: ~\$150 from Tommy's Taxi

No charges from JFK taxi service

Voucher Program Enrollment and Usage

Enrollment Statistics:

Total enrolled (through December 31): 97 people

Old program final enrollment: [number from previous period]

Voucher Requests:

October: 38 requests

November: 38 requests

December: 46 requests

December Usage Analysis:

Used in full: 19 vouchers

Used partially: 6 vouchers

Unused: 21 vouchers

Key Findings:

Actual usage remains around 25 vouchers/month (full + partial usage)

No one is being blocked from receiving vouchers

Target cap of 30 vouchers/month is being maintained

Committee not billed for unused vouchers

Weather may have contributed to higher unused rate in December

Action Item: Dan and Jill to analyze data to identify any patterns of users consistently requesting but not using vouchers

ARPA Funding

CatchConnect payment of ~\$33,000 will be deducted from

ARPA balance

ARPA funds must be spent by end of calendar year 2026 (not fiscal year)

Committee expects to have adequate funding with requested \$100,000 from town meeting

Hospital Shuttle

Invoice for first half of FY26 submitted to Black Cat

Awaiting state reimbursement (timeline varies: 3 weeks to 3 months)

Hospital Shuttle Discussion

Issues Identified

Nickole Boardman reported problems with the Boston Hospital shuttle:

Drivers have been adding unscheduled stops

Passengers missing appointments due to route deviations

One instance of driver stopping at location not on approved route

Waltham Transportation Need

Request received for regular transportation for disabled adults to Waltham

Hospital shuttle may be able to accommodate if route allows

Not suitable for Dial-A-Ride (limited hours:

Tuesday/Thursday evenings, 4-6:30 PM)

This is a recurring need, not one-time appointments

Action Items:

Dan to contact MWRTA (Jim) about:

Hospital shuttle route integrity and unauthorized stops

Possibility of adding Waltham stop

Cost of expanded Dial-A-Ride hours

Explore whether FedNor could provide this service as part of broader contract

Dial-A-Ride Expansion Discussion

Adam Burney clarified that Dial-A-Ride hours are limited by MBTA assessment allocation:

Expanding service would require either:

Separate contract outside MBTA assessment, OR
Increased MBTA assessment (not possible for FY27, already budgeted)

Earliest opportunity for assessment change: FY28 budget cycle
Outside contract may be more feasible and cost-effective

Annual Report

Status

Draft completed and circulated by Dan Carty
Due date: February 20, 2026
Alice Sapienza provided suggested edits (accepted)
Missing data: Final count of taxi rides (Dan to locate from previous Select Board report)

Motion and Vote

Motion: Alice Sapienza moved to approve the annual report as edited with authority for Dan to make minor additions and amendments without returning to full committee.

Amended Motion: Adam Burney suggested combining approval of report with authorization for edits in single motion. Alice agreed.

Vote: Unanimous approval

Distribution Process

Report will be placed on clipboard in Town Hall vestibule for signatures

All committee members must sign

Dan will email committee when ready (not deliberative, no open meeting law violation)

Dan offered to drive around for signatures if needed

Target: All signatures collected by February 20th

Emergency Voucher Program

Amount Determination

The committee discussed appropriate voucher amount for emergency ride home program:

Social workers (Nina and Kirsten) and Jill suggested range of \$30-\$75 or \$30-\$100

Committee initially considered \$50 as middle ground

Nickole Boardman advocated for \$100 based on discussion with Jill:

Usage will be very limited

Social workers/Jill will make discretionary decisions

Unused portion credited back (24-hour expiration)

Higher amount covers emergency trips to Boston if needed

Decision: Committee agreed on \$100 emergency voucher amount

Rationale: Better to start generous and adjust if needed

Trust placed in Jill, Nina, and Kirsten's discretion

Expected usage: Only a couple per month

Technical Implementation

Off-Hours Web Form:

Dan researching time-dependent form that:

Displays during off-hours (after 5 PM, weekends)

Directs to phone contact during business hours

May require add-in purchase (~\$25/month, ~\$400/year)

Payment Mechanism Discussion:

Could be invoiced annually or monthly
Monthly payments could use commerce card
Need to determine who owns/manages Google Form login
IT considerations for town systems

Action Items:

Dan and Adam to meet with Mark Thompson (IT Director) to discuss:

Appropriate form ownership and management
Payment mechanism
Technical implementation

Dan to finalize sign-up form

Dan to re-engage with Uber to activate emergency voucher system

Alternative Approach Discussed

Adam Burney suggested potential for two-tier system:

\$100 vouchers issued by social workers/Jill (discretionary, high need)

\$50 vouchers for after-hours web form (to limit potential

abuse)

Committee decided to start with universal \$100 amount and adjust if patterns of abuse emerge.

Flash Vote Survey

Background

Dan Carty met with Leila Frank (town communications director) about conducting Flash Vote survey:

Flash Vote is quick-hit survey tool (48-72 hour window)

Sent via text to registered users

Current enrollment: ~1,583-2,000 residents

Previous survey (February 2025): 761 responses

Previous Survey Results

Last year's survey identified top interests:

Shuttle to train station (high interest)

Shuttle to Logan Express (high interest)

General transportation needs assessment

Proposed New Survey Focus

Rather than repeating broad questions, focus on:

More specific shuttle options (which train station, timing, etc.)

Building on previous year's findings

Include awareness of CatchConnect program

"Last mile" transportation connections

Survey Development

Assigned Team:

Alice Sapienza: Draft 4-5 questions plus open-ended question

Adam Burney: Review and provide feedback

Nickole Boardman/Jill: Review from Council on Aging perspective

Timeline: To be developed for potential March distribution

Survey Goals:

Gather specific data on train station shuttle preferences

Understand Logan Express shuttle demand

Inform Select Board on next priority transportation initiative

Ensure representative participation across demographics

Outreach:

Alice Sapienza suggested encouraging Council on Aging clients to register for Flash Vote to ensure underrepresented populations are included in survey data.

Action Items:

Alice to draft survey questions

Alice to send draft to Adam for review

Adam to provide feedback

Team to finalize and send to Dan

Dan to coordinate with Leila Frank on timing and distribution

Dan to send Linda Faust information on how to register for Flash Vote

Encourage broader registration through Council on Aging channels

New Initiatives

Community Rides Program (Fish Program Resurrection)

Nickole Boardman announced:

Old FISH volunteer driver program being resurrected as "Community Rides"

Launch date: March 2026

Service Level: Very limited initially

Eligibility: Residents who cannot utilize existing transportation programs

Coverage: Can include Boston and other destinations

Administration: Requests go through Jill or Nickole only

Legal Framework: Drivers recruited, waivers obtained, town blessing secured, attorneys consulted

Purpose: Fill gaps for individuals who don't qualify for or can't access other transportation options

Next Steps: Full presentation at March meeting

Next Meeting

Date: March 6, 2026 Time: 10:30 AM Format: Virtual

Note: Mary Brauer will be absent

Summary of Action Items

Dan Carty:

Contact Coldbrook Crossing by phone about their shuttle

Contact MWRTA about hospital shuttle issues, Waltham service, and Dial-A-Ride expansion costs

Reach back out to FedNor about medical transport contract

Meet with Mark Thompson (IT) about emergency voucher

form implementation

Finalize emergency voucher sign-up form

Re-engage with Uber to activate emergency voucher program

Coordinate Flash Vote survey with Leila Frank

Send Linda Faust information on Flash Vote registration

Finalize annual report with taxi ride data

Place annual report in Town Hall vestibule for signatures

Work with Jill on voucher usage data analysis

Adam Burney:

Complete state earmark application form (budget section)

Meet with Dan and Mark Thompson about emergency voucher implementation

Review Flash Vote survey questions from Alice

Alice Sapienza:

Send state budget analysis to Dan for distribution

Draft Flash Vote survey questions (4-5 questions plus open-ended)

Send draft to Adam for review

Nickole Boardman/Jill:

Review Flash Vote survey questions

Prepare presentation on Community Rides program for
March meeting
Provide voucher usage pattern analysis to Dan

Cheryl Wallace:
Complete meeting minutes from February 6 meeting

All Committee Members:
Sign annual report in Town Hall vestibule by February 20

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Adam Burney Second: Alice Sapienza
Vote: Unanimous Time: 11:33 AM (exactly 1 hour meeting
duration)