



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

2:00 PM

Police Department Conference Room, 75 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA

Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Beth Suedmeyer, Debra Galloway, Adam Duchesneau

Absent: Charlie Dunn, Dan Nason, Scott Nix, Bethany Hadvab, Carmine Gentile

Guests: Kay Bell (Commission on Disability), Kelsey Magnuson (Emerson Hospital), Leon Goodman

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Carty as chair convened the meeting after 2 PM.

The Committee will welcome new member Doug Frey from the Commission on Disability. In his absence today, Kay Bell is attending.

Selection of Clerk

Beth Suedmeyer agreed to take minutes.

Action Items and Updates Discussion

Deb Galloway provided an update on the MWRTA Route 20 Shuttle to begin with a soft start of June 10th. The ribbon cutting event will be on June 24th. The shuttle will run from Marlborough to the MBTA Riverside Station (Green Line). Proposed stops in Sudbury include Meadow Walk/Shaws Plaza, Sudbury Farms, and Rugged Bear. A draft schedule for the morning and evening commutes was circulated, but not ready for public release. Questions were raised about possible additional stops, such as at Longfellow Glen and Coolidge. A plan for publicity was discussed and other recommendations for outreach were discussed.

Other updates

- Information provided by Ben Sisko of Lyft will be circulated to the group.
- The grant proposal for the MWRTA Route 20 Shuttle has not been received.

Discussion of Rapid Bus Service Proposal

Leon Goodman a Sudbury resident and retired transportation planner attended the meeting to briefly present a proposal for consideration involving potential Rapid Bus Service along MBTA Rail Corridor, including through Sudbury.

In 2011, MAPC released a study that considered utilizing the MBTA right of way for reactivating active transit including dedicated lanes for Bus Rapid Transit Service. The MBTA plan considered was determined to be infeasible, due to costs to develop and inefficient travel times, but Mr. Goodman has developed a refined plan that would be less costly and offer more efficient transit times. The modifications he discussed involved reducing the width of the travel lanes so that only 30 feet of right of way would be used, rather than 43 feet proposed in

the MBTA proposal, which avoids the need to rebuild each of the under/overpasses (1 way bus travel would be proposed at grade separated crossings). He also suggests the priority be given to the bus service rather than the general traffic, to significantly reduce the bus travel time. There are 23 at grade crossings. Mr. Goodman's ideas have been shared with MassDOT in February 2019. The Committee thanked him for attending and presenting his ideas and indicated they will follow up for more information as needed.

Update and Discussion - Community Compact Grant / "Making the Connection" for the on demand transportation pilot project

The committee discussed next steps with the pilot project and the decisions that will need to be made. The grant award will need to be spent by June 2020, but an extension may be requested. Discussion of what the Committee can advance prior to the initiation of the MAGIC collaboration occurred. Sapienza indicated with time being tight, Sudbury should advance independently to initiate the program and the Committees actions would be consistent with the larger collaboration. There will be a meeting with MAPC and the MAGIC group on May 30th. The funds will primarily be directed to the MAGIC project manager who will manage the data. Additionally, funds for promotion of the program and resources to support subsidies will be available. The service partners to be engaged were considered and included TNCs (Uber and Lyft) and local taxi companies (JFK and Tommy's). The advantages of TNCs versus taxi services were discussed. Considerations such as the availability of accessible vehicles, ability for users to establish relationships with drivers, and driver screening were advantageous for taxis. The disadvantages were the additional start up coordination involved and the lack of services applications and ease of data sharing. The Newton project with Via was also discussed as it offers some of the taxi benefits in a TNC model. It is suggested that we set up meetings with the taxi companies and Newton.

The service groups will be aging, low income, veterans, disabled populations. Subsidies would be offered to eligible users utilizing transportation mitigation funds from the Meadow Walk and Coolidge Phase 2 projects. A Worksheet and Exhibit 1 developed by Sapienza were distributed and discussed, to present the parameters to be considered in the pilot, as well as the integration of the Making the Connections Pilot.

Details will need to be worked out regarding the use of applications, concierge services, or both for securing rides. It was suggested that we consider a soft launch of the program with a pilot or Beta testing group.

Committee Membership and Structure

Carty reported that we will need to review the mission statement and report back to the Board of Selectmen. Carty discussed membership changes for the committee, including changing Galloway to a core member as the MWRTA Representative, adding Carmine Gentile as our State Representative, and to modify Sapienza's role to reflect her role as Livable Sudbury ambassador. He also mentioned possibly adding members of the LS and SPS School Committees as advisory members.

Other Announcements

Magnuson announced that Emerson has decided to fund the Sudbury Chapter of the Neighborhood Brigade, contributing \$5000, the highest level of community support they offer. This is an exciting development and the potential of getting the Brigade data combined with the senior center data and pilot data was discussed.

Discussion of Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be on June 12th at 9:30 at the Police Station (pending availability). Discussions will involve next steps with the pilot. Future meetings will include meetings with the taxi companies and Newton to hear more about the Via project they have undertaken. Additionally, we will discuss the workforce transit grant funding opportunity and continue the discussion of 3/6/12 month action plan.

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval meeting was adjourned.