



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 8, 2020

ZOOM Meeting

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Debra Galloway, Sandy Lasky, Alice Sapienza, Adam Duchesneau, Doug Frey

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Group Members Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan as chair convened the meeting at 1:02 PM.

Selection of Clerk

Alice volunteered to take meeting minutes (and, with the approval of the group, Dan recorded the meeting as well).

General Topics

Status of MWRTA Route 20 Shuttle: Dan asked about the status of the MWRTA Rt 20 shuttle, and Debra replied that it has been stopped during the pandemic. Also, she continued, ridership had been lower than expected, so future funding of this shuttle may be difficult to obtain. Dan thanked her and told the group that the new Town Manager has been posting short videos of interviews with town staff and that Debra had been a recent guest, with much success in her presentation.

Meadow Walk Bus Shelter: Doug referred to the proposed bus shelter in the Meadow Walk complex (this was a National Development commitment to the Planning Board) and whether the shelter would be accessible. Adam responded that Beth Suedmeyer has been working with the developer and the group was assured the shelter would meet ADA standards. Debra added that the CoA vans would be first users of the shelter and, thus, confirm accessibility. Doug also asked if the shuttle would pick up passengers at the shelter going east to the MBTA as well as west to Marlboro. Debra will verify that this would be possible, and there was some discussion of the site of the shelter and the use of the access road off route 20 by the Sudbury fire station for the bus route to/from the shelter. Alice questioned ongoing maintenance of the shelter (shoveling, repairs, etc.), and was told that the developer's property management company would be responsible.

Quarry North/Cold Brook Crossing shuttle. Dan wanted to let the group know about the name change of the Route 117 Ch 40R development from Quarry North to *Cold Brook Crossing*. This type of

development includes transportation, expected to be shuttles to the nearest commuter rail stations. In addition, the language referring to what the developer will provide was broad, so it is likely that contiguous residences (Frost Farm) would be able to use the same shuttles. Adam noted that this project was currently before the Planning Department.

Community Compact Update

Adam summarized the process by which Nelson/Nygaard (a transit consulting firm) applied to fill the advertised Program Manager role. He also reported that the dashboard agreement (with Uber) has been reviewed by Town Counsel and should be sent, soon, to Uber for their review. Dan noted that we want to be ready to roll out the Sudbury pilot, when the COVID restrictions are lifted. The final “gate” to the Community Compact agreement’s moving forward is the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA), which still awaits Sudbury town staff/counsel review.

Alice noted that there are three virtual meetings next week: On Monday, 5/11, a group of towns that are members of CrossTown Connect will meet to discuss new MAPC grants (see below) and possible regional application. Adam has agreed to represent Sudbury at this meeting. On Wednesday, 5/13, the Community Compact Steering Committee will meet again, to review briefly the MAPC grants and whether one or more towns would apply for funding. Alice also will attend a virtual meeting with Uber, to discuss “Perspectives of Community Recovery Post-COVID 19” on Thursday, 5/14. Information from all meetings will be brought to the Transportation Committee’s next meeting.

COVID-19 MAPC Grant Announcement

Alice reviewed a recent (announced May 1 and available online on May 4) funding opportunity funded by MassDevelopment in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The purpose of the emergency funding (“for state and municipal agencies that coordinate transportation services”) is to support small businesses: taxi, livery, hackney transportation. The focus is to meet the needs of vulnerable populations for transportation and delivery, during the pandemic, and applications are due 12 June 2020.

The focus includes “older adults, veterans, homebound individuals, persons with disabilities, medical staff and first responders, persons facing food insecurity, essential workers with access to automobiles or other transit, and homeless persons.” Eligible trips encompass “meal deliveries, food pantry deliveries to food banks and to residents, delivery of prescription drugs, transportation needs of the homeless, non-emergency medical trips, grocery or other shopping trips, and workforce transportation for essential workers (medical, nursing homes, grocery workers, etc.”

Debra commented that she expected CoA vans to be available for transportation (when, and with what limits, was not yet clear), and that the Senior Center has 11 volunteers who currently shop for people and she is not aware of others who may need food deliveries. Lisa said that there was discussion also with the schools about when and if school bus transportation might be resumed.

Members of the Transportation Committee agreed that Bethany Hadvab should be notified of this opportunity, and Debra volunteered to let her know. As stated above, CTC member towns will be meeting on Monday, to discuss potential regional uses of these funds. There was some discussion of the burden on town staff, if funds were allocated to specific departments (e.g., dispatch, safety precautions, etc.). Alice noted that certain targets might be less onerous in terms of administration; for

example, if WAV transportation were needed, JFK Taxi could be given the contact information of Sudbury residents requiring such vehicles and the grant would pay JFK directly and residents would call JFK as needed. In other words, “administration” efforts might be minimum and feasible.

Dan recommended that further discussion be taken offline and that this topic be added to the agenda for the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The 2 March 2020 minutes were distributed and the group agreed to review them and vote on their approval at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 22 May 2020 at 1:30 PM. Dan will send out the ZOOM invitation. In the interim, members were encouraged to keep the committee updated on various initiatives.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 1:58 PM, seconded, and members unanimously agreed.