



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2020

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Group Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian (had to leave before meeting ended)

Advisory Group Absent: Charlie Dunn, Scott Nix, Beth Suedmeyer, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Ellen Joachim

Guest: Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:34 am. Dan C made an announcement that this was a public meeting and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV for future viewing.

Selection of Clerk

Doug F volunteered to take meeting minutes.

New MAPC COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant

Dan C mentioned the primary purpose of this meeting was to review the new MAPC Grant application due today. Alice S thanked Debra G and Doug F for their work researching WAV options. Alice S said we'd be asking for \$248,000 and would be partnering with Maynard, Stow and Concord. She commented that the towns were grateful for the work Sudbury has done with our pilot taxi program.

Alice S noted that she thought our application was strong and has addressed all the items on the scorecard in the application including ADA transport. Tommy's Taxi included a diversification plan that may result in bonus points. She created a 5 page attachment of what the program will entail. Our dispatch model will be followed. Alice S thanked Beth Perry for her pilot program trip statistics. Our run rate is \$38k for a 5 and a half month time period. We'll use a similar run rate for the application. Alice S mentioned the cab companies will provide advanced safety training for drivers. We are also adding a self-health check list for riders as part of the GO Sudbury application process, based on a document created by Debra G.

Debra G and Doug F reviewed their research for potential WAV providers. MV Transportation considered our volume of rides too small for them. A&A Metro in Bridgewater would be interested if we could fund a full time driver for 40 hours/week at \$60/hour. GAAMHA in Gardner said we were too far from their coverage area. Kiessling already provides services to the MWRTA. Reaching First Transit was unsuccessful. Doug F commented that Uber and Lyft did not have current WAV support.

(*Note: WAV is wheelchair accessible vehicle)

Centralized Dispatch

Alice S discussed a meeting called by Adam D for 11.19.20 regarding Crosstown Connect's dispatch program. Alice S pointed out smart phones are used to set up Uber rides, but if individuals don't have a smart phone, a dispatch operation could be used for that program as well as the taxi rides program. The amount provided by the existing MAPC taxi grant (\$1,100) does not cover our costs. Crosstown Connect estimated dispatch costs are \$6k to \$11k per community per year, based on an annual membership fee of \$5,500. In other words, dispatch service is in addition to membership and based on usage.

Technical Difficulties with Zoom

From 11:00 to 11:15 am there was a problem with the Zoom service and the meeting was suspended.

Meeting Resumed

Debra G said she would distribute the policies and procedures document. Dan C screen shared the document for review.

Alice S reviewed current taxi data, including the facts that 95% of riders were over 50 years old , 63% were over 70, 66% were financially insecure, 32% were people with disabilities, 21% of reservations resulted in late fees, of which 2 riders made up 53% of late fees. Total rides delivered were 219.

Alice S reviewed the budget assumptions for the grant, taking the latest 6-week volumes and extrapolating them to a 4-week, approximate month basis. She said we needed to watch spending. Sandy L commented that essential worker volume may decrease over time.

There was discussion on how to ask "frequent flier" riders to be more resourceful and efficient in limiting the number of rides, especially for one WAV rider. Dan C suggested we use a soft approach and see how it goes and suggested Alice S and Debra G work out the final policy and procedure guidelines.

Adam D mentioned there was a good conversation at the Cross Town Connect meeting yesterday. The Sudbury Planning office has agreed to dispatch for the existing grant, but will need more support in the future and is looking at outsourcing options.

MAPC Grant Submission Approval

Dan C. moved to empower Alice S to submit the MAPC grant application on behalf of the Sudbury Transportation Committee, Sandy L seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 13th meeting were reviewed. Dan C. moved to approve them as amended, Alice seconded and the motion passed 5-0. (Adam D had departed the meeting)

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for December 4th. 2020 at 10:30 AM via the town Zoom service, followed by a December 18th meeting, also at 10 30 am.

Motion to Adjourn

Dan C. moved to adjourn at 11:40 AM and Sandy seconded; the motion passed 5-0.