



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, January 8, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Group Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian

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

Guests: Kay Bell, Karen Dumaine/Michelle Brooks from Transaction Associates/CrossTownConnect

Confirmation of Quorum

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

Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes.

MAPC COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant and Taxi Program a.k.a. the "Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program"

Adam started with program finances and noted that November invoices are in and we have money to cover them. There were 114 rides in November. December invoices are not yet in, but Adam noted ridership was higher than expected at 233 rides and thus far in January 40 rides have been booked. The new MAPC grant will not be decided until February, perhaps the end of the month. Adam believed that we would have enough money in the program to last us through January, but February might be tough.

Sandy asked if December rides were holiday related. Alice asked Dan to screenshare the ridership data sheet. Dan shared a document but it was not the latest version; Alice said she would send the latest to the group.

Dan mentioned that unfortunately we cannot run the taxi program at a deficit. Sandy asked at what point would we have to put the program on pause. Alice suggested the concept of adding co-pays while Deb suggested we restrict the numbers of rides individuals can take in a week. Alice noted that even after award the MAPC could take up to another month to send us the money. Dan asked Adam to estimate when we may run out of money. Adam again stated that he thought we could last through the end of January.

Dan suggested that the committee empower Adam to put the program on pause if and when needed. Alice stated she would have updated finances in the next few days and would lay out different ridership scenarios. Doug suggested limiting the types of rides. Adam stated he would instruct Beth Perry (Planning Department) to tell riders booking rides in February that these were tentative based on anticipated program funding. Sandy suggested a two-week notice it let people know rides may be cancelled due to funding. Deb stated that Ana Christina (Senior Center) will notify the current roster of riders that funding is running low.

The group agreed that at the next meeting they would decide if and when we must pause the program. Deb noted that we next meet on January 22.

Adam then introduced Karen Dumaine and Michelle Brooks from Transaction Associates/Cross-TownConnect and noted that although interested we could not commit to utilizing their dispatch services until we knew we had the next round of grant funding secured. Karen and Michelle noted our situation and stated they look forward to working with us once (and if) we received the next round of funding.

Go Sudbury – UBER

The conversation pivoted toward the Uber program when Sandy noted that it is imperative that we get it running sooner rather than later. Adam stated that the Uber account is set up and ready to go with our credit card. Adam volunteered to reach out to Uber to tie up any loose ends relative to the account setup. Dan shared the December 18, 2020 minutes in order to help facilitate the conversation. Dan stated he would reach out to Scott Nix as he is the point person for Veterans. Deb stated that March 3 there is a TRIPPS (Transportation Resources, Information, Planning & Partnership for Seniors) training session for ride sharing programs. Alice suggested March 1 as a potential program start date; Deb said she would note this in her February newsletter and suggested we create a story for the Town Crier as well.

Adam left the meeting at approximately 11:10am.

Sandy suggested we pre-register riders for Uber in order to avoid delays. Deb stated that Ana Christina is ready to onboard riders, but we would need to follow up with Adam as to Beth Perry's availability.

Dan stated that he would check the online registration to ensure essential workers were included.

Dan stated he liked the idea of a March 1 start date and suggested we aim for a February 1 pilot start. Deb said she would ask Ana Christina to identify potential pilot users from the existing pool of taxi riders. She will attempt to identify 10 such pilot users.

Sandy, Deb, and Doug volunteered to work up a one-page marketing piece for the Uber program. Deb will look for the “how to” information that Alice had previously sent out, once found she will forward to Doug and Sandy.

Alice suggested that Dan reach out to Uber to let them know about our February 1 and March 1 target dates. Dan obliged.

MAPC COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant and Taxi Program a.k.a. the “Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program” - revisited

Dan then went back to the taxi program and gave feedback on his discussion with Tommy’s Taxi. There had been a rider complaint that Dan wanted to bring to the vendor’s attention. The issue at hand was discussed and feedback given and received by Tommy’s and Dan reported that it was a constructive discussion. Tommy’s is enjoying the program thus far and look forward to continuing. Further discussion ensued about the type and locations of taxi rides from this one user.

Follow Up Items

Dan noted that he would send survey data to the entire group. He also stated that he owed Dan and Ana Christina an updated Word version of the signup document.

Other Updates

Deb queried the group about potentially creating a higher co-pay option for taxi rides.

Doug mentioned that Linda Faust had come to a recent Commission on Disability meeting and stated that the new Landham Road intersection is hard for pedestrians to cross, because of the time allowed and also the lack of accessible (sight/hearing) walk indicators. He noted that she would likely bring this information to this committee when she next attends.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 18 meeting was made by Dan and approved unanimously by the group.

Next Meeting

Dan noted that the next meeting will be Friday January 22 at 10:30am, then the group decided the following meeting would be Friday February 5 at 10:30am.

Motion to Adjourn

Dan moved to adjourn at 11:49 AM and the motion was passed unanimously.