



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, December 16, 2022

11:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Adam Duchesneau, Kay Bell, Debra Galloway, Bob Lieberman

Advisory Group Present: None

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: Ana Cristina Oliveira, Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV), Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 11:04 AM. Dan Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV. He took roll call, noted a quorum was present, and announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session. He also added that he had to conclude the meeting by noon, and that there were no minutes to be reviewed at this time.

Selection of Clerk: Alice volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates: Dan summarized the major topics for today's discussion:

- Brief recap of the CTPS and MTC meetings,
- Update on tasks resulting from prior Select Board meeting, and
- Updates on Annex Transit and MassDevelopment.

Alice added that a few issues were highlighted in an email exchange with Bethany Hadvad (Sudbury social worker) about transportation needs in Town.

Recap of CTPS and MTC Meetings: On the morning of 12 December, there was a follow-up meeting with Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to discuss revisions of the scope of work for technical assistance provided by the Transportation Committee. Adam, Alice, and Dan attended as representatives of Sudbury. One concern voiced by CTPS staff was the number of communities that might be involved in the effort, given the limited budget and staff resources from CTPS. Alice emphasized that the early proof of concept pilots to emerge from

the CTPS/Sudbury undertaking would only involve one or two other communities besides Sudbury (lead) and, of particular importance, a Regional Transit Authority.

CTPS staff agreed that such scope would be possible and attractive, and they will adjust the document and return to Sudbury within the next several weeks (early 2023) so an agreement can be signed. They also asked that Sudbury initiate conversations with MWRTA's new director, Jim Nee, both as a courtesy and to ascertain the RTA interest in collaborating.

In the afternoon of 12 December, the final meeting of the Making the Connections (MTC) steering committee was held, to review the final report being prepared by Nelson\Nygaard. This will be sent to the Community Compact Cabinet, to document the results of this grant and the lessons learned. Adam noted that about \$15,000 of the MTC subsidy amount would be returned to the State, but that the money allocated to the Program Manager and marketing and outreach was fully spent. As part of the final document, taxi origin and destination maps from the MAPC final report, and Uber origin and destination maps from the Uber Dashboard and Dan Carty's expertise, will be included. Such maps will also become inputs to the technical assistance effort with the CTPS staff, above, once the final agreement is in place.

Select Board Tasks: At the prior SB meeting (6 December), members asked that an estimate of time needed for someone to staff the operating GoSudbury programs be pulled together from the staff and volunteers involved. Debra and Adam were going to meet with the Interim Town Manager with their estimates, and Dan is compiling time from volunteers on the Committee. The question to be addressed is how transportation program operating requirements could be met by additional staff, rather than by the combination of several staff plus volunteers.

Another request was what funds would be needed to continue the programs (with some likely modifications to slow the burn rate) in the near term. Adam stated that an ask of \$150,000 would ensure continuity of both Uber and taxi services, in FY 2025, to cover the transition to a more sustainable configuration (e.g., involving grants resulting from CTPS technical assistance, Town staff addition, collaboration with other towns and RTAs, etc.). Dan and Adam will prepare a warrant article for consideration at the FY2024 Town Meeting (May 2023). Debra, Ana Cristina, and the Committee will continue to discuss options for slowing the taxi burn rate (e.g., sliding scale payments, use of vouchers, etc.).

Updates—Annex, MassDevelopment: Adam reported that the contract with Annex was signed, and the service will be "tested" by a couple of volunteer riders known to the Senior Center. He will set up a meeting with Annex and CTC (Dan hoped to join), so that procedures for dispatch can be set. The process will be that dispatch request WAV from JFK first; if WAV cannot be provided, then Annex will be notified.

He asked if the Annex ride costs would be fully covered, and the answer was yes. Another question was whether the full coverage applied only to WAV. Alice stated that Annex also provides further service (e.g., lifts for ambulatory riders) and that "disability" need not preclude someone who is ambulatory but with difficulty beyond the help that could be provided by a taxi/sedan. Kay, as representative of the COD, noted her appreciation for the understanding of such needs.

Also executed was the contract between Sudbury as lead community and MassDevelopment for taxi funds. Although the hope was that money would be available by 1 January 2023, there has been no response yet from MassDev about the submitted material nor about awarding of money. Adam will follow up (again).

Other: Dan will follow up on legal advice with regard to proposed policies governing riders who do not conform to GoSudbury requirements (e.g., keeping within the ride caps/month). Debra will find times for meeting with MWRTA staff about CTPS efforts, and Dan and Alice will join such a meeting. Alice brought up some comments by Bethany Hadvad about residents who had an urgent need for transportation but either would not qualify for the subsidies or had no time to sign up. Debra and Ana Cristina will get in touch with Bethany to let her know what is available (the Committee had set aside \$1,000 for such urgent, one-time needs).

Dan and Adam will look into the technicalities of so-called Cherry Sheet assessments. Sudbury was assessed \$13,580 for MBTA service and \$121,066 for RTA/MWRTA service in FY2022. However, the allocation was reversed for FY2023: \$73,872 for MBTA and \$58,655 for MWRTA. The totals for both years are not materially changed. Debra stated that, in FY 2021, the MWRTA expended \$113,408 on the CoA vans/drivers/insurance, etc., and took in revenues of \$85,351. She will report on more current figures by the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The group agreed on a tentative next Transportation Committee meeting for Friday, December 23 at 10:30 AM, by Zoom, and a calendar meeting date of January 6, 2023, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment: Kay moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM, Alice seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.