



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, April 28, 2023

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

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 10:31 AM. Dan Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being broadcast live via Zoom and recorded by Sudbury TV. He took roll call, noted a quorum was present, and announced that he was making Adam co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk: Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Acton Items: Dan began the meeting with a review of open action items.

- Dan let the MPO know that their survey was not accessible via screen readers
- Dan noted that he was not able to coordinate with Mark Thompson (Sudbury Director of Information Systems) about running this meeting in a hybrid fashion
- Ana and Deb noted they had communicated with Leila Frank in the Select Board's office to add Annex information to the town website and had communicated out to the ridership about the Annex service
- Dan noted he was still working on automatically parsing the Uber origin and destination data
- Dan and Alice noted they had compiled 12 months of rider data in advance of Town Meeting
- Dan noted he had sent the last financial spreadsheet out to the committee
- Adam noted that the Uber geofence issue had been resolved
- Adam noted he was still working on the \$10,000 MAGIC issue and that he would be submitting an invoice
- Alice stated we would discuss the Community Transit grant today

Administrative Updates:

- Dan stated that there was no financial update today as there had been no changes since the last meeting
- Dan told committee he had recently spoken with State Representative Carmine Gentile and that a \$125,000 earmark for GoSudbury passed through the House budget review and was heading to the Senate for review
- Dan updated committee that he had requested the Select Board extend the committee itself and the terms of its members as all would be expiring on May 31 of this year
- Dan stated there was an upcoming meeting of the 495/MetroWest Partnership on May 11 where they would be discussing regional transportation. Alice and Deb asked to have the meeting information forwarded to them
- Dan noted that he had recently attended a meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Human Services Transportation Coordination workshop and spoke of a follow up email exchange with Logan Casey (Capital Programming Planner) and Ethan LaPointe (manager of the state Transportation Improvement Program). He stated that he would schedule a follow up call with Adam and Alice expressed interest as well. Bob asked if there was a sense from people like Ethan and Logan where Sudbury is on the curve of addressing transportation issues relative to other towns. Dan responded that he thought we were on the leadership end of the curve, noted the value of the data we have collected, and added that Acton is creating a transportation action plan.

Town Meeting Presentation for Article 14:

Dan thanked the group for their feedback and noted that while the presentation for town meeting was complete he had work to do to prepare as he only had 10 minutes available to speak. He shared feedback he had received from the Select Board that was mainly about the slides being busy.. Alice added feedback that the slides would need to be able to stand on their own as this would become a public document. Kay asked if the speaker notes would be included in the public document. Dan stated that this is in PowerPoint format, and they generally got converted to PDF format for posting and thus would likely lose the speaker notes. Adam suggested that any important information be included as a slide in the appendix so they would carry forward into the converted PDF. Dan stated that the presentation was due today and would work to make and submit changes accordingly.

Dan then shared his screen and showed the presentation. Dan focused on one graphic and asked Alice if she had a cleaner version of it. Alice stated she would look and send if she had one. Dan called out the partnership text box on slide 10 and told Kay that the Select Board liked her wording. He also stated the Select Board questioned our partnership with the MWRTA as we were a member of the MWRTA He also noted there were questions about about CatchConnect, the MWRTA micro-transit service. Dan noted that he added a slide to the appendix about Annex Transit in case the question about accessibility came up from the floor of town meeting. He then showed the appendix slide of the state of Massachusetts and the various transit authorities. Kay noted the multiple transit authorities within a 3 or 4 town radius of Sudbury. Alice asked if there was a sense of when this article would come up and Dan guessed toward the end of night one of town meeting.

Annex Transit Update:

Deb confirmed that Annex goes live on May 1 and that she had worked with Mark Thompson to update information on the town website relative to Annex. The transportation chart from the website was shared and Deb solicited feedback from the group. Kay suggested layout changes that would make it easier for the user to decode the applicable information. Bob suggested we separate out information for Annex to make it easier for riders. Linda Faust of 189 Boston Post Road suggested that any graphics on the page have descriptive text as well. Kay elaborated that we should do this but noted that using descriptive text for a table was not easy.

Alice asked about any recent rider feedback received. Ana Cristina Oliveira noted she had no additional feedback but that she was in the process of contacting eligible riders. She added that while not directly related she had received 5 calls from Uber riders saying they were having issues booking rides on weekends. Related discussion ensued, and Adam said it sounded like a program configuration issue and that he would work to resolve it.

Dan asked if anyone had contacted former member Doug Frey to notify him that Annex was becoming a reality. He added that Doug brought the idea of Annex to the committee, and he would probably like to know that we are using them. Kay stated that she had written Doug a note to update him and he was happy to hear of the progress.

Community Transit Grant:

Alice notified group that she had signed up for a mandatory training on May 8,th which she described as a 2-hour meeting to go over all aspects of the grant. She added that she had reached out to Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) as well as Julie Secord from the Wayland Council on Aging to discuss the concepts of a MWRTA micro transit program. She also noted that Travis Pollack from the MAPC Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) was very interested in what we were doing. Alice thanked State Representative Carmine Gentile for working to get a transportation earmark into the state budget (as it may help to pay for the 50% of any funding that the grant would not cover) and thanked the committee and all participants for being persistent in their efforts. Deb added that there was certainly a possibility here but that there was concern with a 50% match for grant funding. Kay asked about a target audience for the grant and was it restricted for seniors or people with disabilities. Alice clarified that it was a mobility-oriented grant so those groups should be at the forefront but that empty seats could go to anybody. Linda Faust asked if the service intent was a curb-to-curb or door-to-door and Alice answered it would likely be curb-to-curb.

Member updates and other topics:

Kay asked that once we get through town meeting to consider a discussion about how to best transition this program into town operations that would include grant writing. Alice added that perhaps Sudbury should consider crafting a transportation strategy. Dan stated that he would add to future discussions sometime after town meeting.

Review of Minutes:

The draft minutes of April 14, 2023 were shared by Dan and changes reviewed. After discussion, a motion was made by Kay, seconded by Alice, and the minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Next Meeting:

Upon discussion and consensus, the next meeting of the Transportation Committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 12 at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment:

Kay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 AM, Deb seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by all the Committee members. Dan thanked the committee and guests and stated he looked forward to seeing everyone at town meeting.