



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, March 8, 2024

9:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Debra Galloway, Alice Sapienza, Bob Lieberman, Adam Burney, Cheryl Wallace

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Dani Marini-King, Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Silvia Nersessian and Mary Warzynski

Guests: Kay Bell, Tyler Terrasi (Government Affairs Officer, MWRTA)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan as chair convened the meeting at 9:01 AM. He made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being broadcast live via Zoom and recorded by Sudbury TV. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Adam agreed to be co-host.

Selection of Clerk: Alice was assigned duties of Clerk for the meeting.

Administrative Updates: Dan thanked those present for their flexibility in meeting date and time. He noted a hard stop was required by 10 AM, and that Adam had to drop out at 9:30 AM. Because a number of Town meetings had been hacked recently, Dan stated that we should be prepared and that steps would be taken to address the problem. He added that he had not been able to complete the minutes for last meeting due to work travel, but he would have them ready by next meeting. Because it was still early in the month, there would not be a financial update until all invoices had been received.

Given Adam's need to leave at 9:30 AM, Dan turned the meeting over to topics relevant to him.

Community Transit Grant Funding: Last Tuesday (3.5.24), Adam and Alice discussed the email from the State DOT (on 28 February) about use of State ARPA funds for the Community Transit Grant awarded to Sudbury for Catch Connect service. This change from "one pocket of money [5310 funding] to another pocket [ARPA]" obviated the requirement for Sudbury and the MWRTA to

demonstrate what the local match would be. (The Community Transit Grant provides 50% of requested funds; the grantees provide the remainder as local match.)

For Sudbury, MWRTA's Catch Connect service would cost about \$114,230, and the grant is for \$74,864. As Adam demonstrated, the MWRTA is committed to using \$21,000 of their assessment for the service, and Sudbury has agreed to use \$17,000 from Town ARPA funds. That, plus the anticipated fare to MWRTA will cover the above cost.

Dan said he had discussed this earlier with the Select Board, which approved the use of funds, but in support of complete transparency he wanted to let them know about the DOT decision. Adam and others agreed that having even another vote of agreement to use the \$17,000 for Catch Connect service was fine. Alice asked that, once the Select Board agreed, Adam would get in touch with the State DOT to confirm the Town's conformance to their revised budget. No change to the amount of funding is involved.

Adam also commented on the training that he and Alice had attended last month and that the partnership between Sudbury and the MWRTA had many advantages, including the fact that both are government entities and, thus, current with all procurement requirements. Also, Adam has been authorized by the Town Manager to sign relevant Community Transit grant documents.

Dan concluded that we needed to determine "launch tasks" for the start of the Catch Connect service, likely to be 1 July. Tyler stated that he had not yet had the opportunity to talk with Jim Nee about the MWRTA launch requirements but would shortly. Dan suggested we think about the infrastructure communications (e.g., Public Safety, DPW, Housing, etc.) and general rider communications. Debra recommended we publicize the award and the services it will provide immediately (including, as Cheryl stated, in the web materials on Sudbury transportation). After people are aware of the new service, Debra suggested we can communicate more details, such as no caps on rides and lower fare than Uber co-pay. As Dan had noted, we want to help residents shift to the most economical service that meets their needs, in order for these reduced-cost options to be sustainable.

Dan asked Debra to be the link with MWRTA about launch strategy and tactics.

State Earmark: Adam reviewed the fact that the reduced earmark (\$62,500) had been received by the Town, and that Dan will follow up to ensure the money can be used beyond FY24 (ending in June). Adam reminded the Committee that the MassDevelopment funds were extended, and that Sudbury is in good financial shape to continue the subsidized transportation options.

With regard to these options, Adam said that he is in contact with Annex about extending the contract and asked if contracts with the taxi companies (Tommy's and JFK) should also be extended. Debra recommended extending these, because they can be terminated upon notice, and also because some small proportion of riders will continue to need taxi service. Adam added that we are still in the process of considering a TMA with Acton and continuance of CTC dispatch services, and he will keep us apprised.

Transportation Updates:

- Dan noted that Debra is now being notified of residents who sign up for Uber and/or taxi service. He also reminded the Committee that he had set up a functioning Uber account without a credit or debit card but will meet with Debra to ensure this is possible and workable.
- Debra commented that we need to address the small number of individuals who cannot use a smart phone and that contracting with GoGo Grandparent as concierge might be a solution. The individual can call this concierge and they will manage the process of dispatch and paying for needed rides from Uber. Sarah Boden, an Uber representative, had noted that the partnership between Uber and GGG worked well. Debra will follow up and also contact other senior centers in the area that might use this concierge service.
- Debra stated that occasionally they are asked by riders for special circumstances, such as more rides in a month than allowed. There is a small “emergency fund” for these instances, and the Senior Center staff review and follow up on such requests.
- Kay (former CoD member of the Committee) thanked all for their hard work and for the grants that have been awarded.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 22, at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment: Dan asked for a motion to adjourn; Alice moved, and Debra seconded. Roll call was unanimous and the meeting ended at 9:47 AM.