



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Monday, June 10, 2024

11 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Adam Burney

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Dani Marini-King, and Maura Carty

Guests: Linda Faust, Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan as chair convened the meeting at 11:01 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, a quorum was present. Dan asked Debra to be co-host and noted that he had a hard stop before noon.

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

Public Comment: Linda Faust, 189 Boston Post Road, indicated that she was experiencing technical difficulties with the sound. Dan explained it was likely at his end.

Administrative Updates: Dan stated that we would begin with a debrief of the Catch Connect launch event on 6 June. All committee members, with the exception of Alice, were in attendance. He also wanted to review what is necessary to ensure an effective July 1 launch. A second important topic is the award to Sudbury, Wayland, and the MWRTA for a Boston hospital shuttle. Alice stated that we had an option of funding from April 1, 2024, or from July 1, 2024 (to June 30, 2025). Despite the overlap with Catch Connect, we chose a 1 July start, assuming MWRTA is in agreement.

Catch Connect Launch Event: Dan thanked Debra and Senior Center staff and volunteers for an excellent launch event on 6 June. He said how pleased he was to see that the vehicle brought by MWRTA to Fairbanks was electric (the MWRTA expects to have six EVs), although it is not clear that the Catch Connect assigned to Sudbury will always be an EV.

In addition to the MWRTA (Jim Nee, Administrator, and several staff), attendees included Sudbury TV, Carmine Gentile (state representative), Meredith Slesinger, MassDOT Rail and Transit Administrator, and representatives from the Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury. Debra added that, although the turnout was very good, she had hoped for more older residents, one of the target groups for the shuttle. But, she said, probably such individuals have difficulty finding transportation to events like this (and, the shuttle should address that challenge).

Between the launch event and actual start of the shuttle on 1 July, Debra will be working with Jim Nee/MWRTA to hold Catch Connect meetings at a number housing sites (Coolidge, Cold Brook, Musketahquid). Linda Faust stated that Debra should know that the housing coordinator for Coolidge 2 has not been hired, so communication should be to staff at Coolidge 1 and from them to Coolidge 2. She also asked if there were a separate Sudbury number for Catch Connect; Debra said there is.

Shifting Residents From Uber to Catch Connect: In addition to the above onsite meetings, another task in preparation for the 1 July start is adjustment of Uber copay for rides within Sudbury. At a prior meeting, the committee had briefly considered a type of “surge pricing” to encourage riders to switch from Uber to Catch Connect. Both Debra and Adam had found this to be a fairly straightforward adjustment of the dashboard parameters. In other words, we can raise the copay for rides within Sudbury, Monday through Friday, noon to 6 PM from, say, \$3 to, say, \$5.

After discussion of this strategy, Dan moved that Uber copay for within Sudbury rides be changed from \$3 to \$5 per one-way ride during the stated days and hours. Alice seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, and roll call vote was unanimous approval of the motion. Debra will make sure this proposed change is prominent on the town website and other relevant published material. In addition to being lower cost than Uber, the Catch Connect rides have no cap on frequency. (Uber rides are capped at 10 one-way rides per rider per month.)

Debra asked about seeking feedback during the first (free) month of Catch Connect service. Members agreed that this was important—and Alice noted that bimonthly surveys of riders would be conducted once service was underway. Debra will ask riders to call the Senior Center with their feedback, during July.

Boston Hospital Shuttle: On 13 May, Sudbury (lead, in collaboration with Wayland) was notified of the award for an MWRTA Boston Hospital shuttle (and Emergency Ride in/from Boston), with funding to start 1 July. Because of the unexpected overlap of two grant-awarded programs, Debra will set up a Zoom meeting with Alice and Jim Nee (MWRTA) to discuss implementation.

Minutes: Two sets of minutes (April 12 and April 26) were reviewed. After discussion of proposed changes/edits, Bob moved for approval of the 4/12 minutes with emendations; Alice seconded; roll call was unanimous approval. Debra moved for approval of the 4/26 minutes with emendations; Alice seconded; roll call vote was unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: Because of Dan’s travel schedule, he proposed that our next meeting be held on Monday, June 24, at 10 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment: Dan proposed we adjourn the meeting. Sapienza moved to adjourn at 11:37 AM; Cheryl seconded; roll call vote was unanimous adjournment.