

# Sudbury Transportation Committee

## Minutes

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

9:15 AM

Silva Conference Room, Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road

Present: **Core members:** Daniel Carty, Bethany Hadvab, Alice Sapienza, Beth Suedmeyer, Daniel Nason; **Advisory members:** Debra Galloway;  
Absent: **Core members:** Carmine Gentile; **Advisory members:** Charlie Dunn, Scott Nix

### Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

### Selection of Clerk to take minutes

Debra Galloway volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

### Review and Approval of Sept 17, 2018, meeting minutes

The minutes of the prior meeting were amended by Alice Sapienza; as amended the motion to approve was made by Beth Suedmeyer and seconded by Alice Sapienza. Approval by all except Dan Nason who abstained as he was not at the Sept. 17 meeting.

**Update on Livability Assessment:** Alice reported that the Livable Sudbury needs assessment report will be ready by the end of October.

**MAPC Microtransit RFI:** Alice Sapienza is attending the CTC (CrossTown Connect) meeting on October 11. She will recommend that MAPC and the 3 RTAs (MetroWest, Lowell, Montachusett), work together on a proposal for 3 pilots: fixed route, 1<sup>st</sup> mile/Last mile (commuter), and on demand transportation for weekends. The pilots will use a microtransit platform to organize transportation via available vehicles in a defined geographic area. Beth Suedmeyer will also attend CTC meeting.

**Other Updates:** Alice Sapienza will be attending presentations from Uber and Lyft on October 4 and 10 in Carlisle, organized by the Carlisle COA Director. Additionally, Alice will meet with GATRA (Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority) Director to learn more about the GATRA-TransLoc microtransit pilot on October 5.

### Update on Action Items/Member Updates:

1. The CrossTown Connect invoice is ready to be paid to secure Sudbury's membership for this year.
2. Beth Suedmeyer posted the Committee's transportation related documents on the Town website.
3. Bethany Hadvab met with L-S High School (LS) and Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) representatives to discuss the transportation needs of students in town. She reports that for 2 years in a row, they have applied for SERF grant to pay for analysis of student transportation needs, and to fund transportation for enrichment and educational afterschool activities (grant applications were not successful). Transportation needs

reported include: students who miss the bus, transportation for special after school/library programs, this is particularly a need for METCO students. The School representatives do not have any hard data, only anecdotal evidence. Bethany reported that she was asked to help with this year's SERF grant application.

4. During Bethany's meeting with L-S, a Career Development counselor reported a need for transportation help for students for internships and jobs. They suggested that a core group of about 10 students are affected.
5. Dan Carty reported that the School Committee is investigating the School Start times issue. Some of the pressure to look at this is coming from the state, as they have research showing high school students need later start times. They are researching the idea of finding state funds to help.
6. Bethany reported another transportation need she has heard about is for students who get sick during the school day and need a ride home.
7. Dan Carty was added to the CTC mailing list.
8. Alice will find out if GATRA used an RFI for the pilot with microtransit. Meeting is on October 5.
9. Dan Carty will connect with MAPC representatives to discuss the microtransit pilot. It was suggested that Travis Pollack of MAPC be invited to one of our meetings.
10. Dan will also connect with and update Town Manager Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues on the Transportation Committee.

### **Customer Identification:**

A chart containing the following headings was shared before the meeting: "Customer", "Current Transportation Options", and "Gaps". Many "customers" were previously identified in earlier meetings, and filled in by Alice Sapienza before today's meeting. It was acknowledged that residents with disabilities have many of the same needs, and could be added to many of the listed areas of need. Committee members added many additional "customers" and their associated needs to the chart, along with gaps in services available to meet those needs<sup>1</sup>.

Some of the discussion included:

Bethany shared that some residents may be interested in information about bike commuting, and/or biking as transportation to other destinations. There is an organization that gives out free bikes for those who volunteer. Bikes not Bombs.

E bikes also mentioned by Bethany as a travel option – they add some motorized power for long rides. Still a safety issue.

It was noted that safety is an issue for biking in this area. Some Sudbury roads are extremely narrow, even for cars.

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<sup>1</sup> The Customer chart is attached.

Debra mentioned 3 recent unique requests for transportation that were recently received by the Senior Center: wheelchair accessible transportation for a new resident at a local nursing home; transportation for a disabled young adult to get to a local job; and a legally blind young adult who needs to get to work in Waltham.

Bethany reports that there is also a need for transportation to driver's ed classes for kids and parents. Some families don't have a car, or can't afford to drive it, or are sharing a car with other families. Insurance is also very costly for new drivers.

Dan Nason mentioned that there are already challenges at the schools with traffic. There has been a large increase in the number of parents who drive their children to school. This is happening at the same time that buses are delivering children to the schools. They are working to realign traffic flow to get cars off the streets around the schools. This is important to keep in mind while planning new transportation options. Both Alice and Beth responded that there are dual goals: to provide more transportation options for residents, but to also make the transportation sustainable, and to pool resources where possible.

In addition to the Senior Center's FISH volunteer medical transportation, Our Lady of Fatima assists in matching volunteers to drive residents in need. They are finding that there are people who need rides for medical procedures such as endoscopy, in which people cannot drive home. The church has a list of volunteers and they are matched with a needed rider.

Debra mentioned a need for more part-time van drivers to meet needs. The Senior Center has 2 full-time, and 4 part-time drivers but needs more. There is difficulty in having drivers available for special events like Fall Town Meeting, trips to Open Table supper, and to fill in for regular drivers.

Older adults with changing vision and physical issues are beginning to need transportation, but options are still limited. The Senior Center vans require 2 days' notice, and account set up. The Route 20 Shuttle is available only 2 days each week and is confined to Route 20 and Musketahquid Village. People would like to be spontaneous. There is also only very limited evening, and no weekend transportation.

During the discussion, various resources and ideas came up, including the following:

ZenCar was mentioned as providing secure, vetted transportation for children. They are expanding into transportation for older adult with special needs. They have in-vehicle cameras.

PT1 taxi cab transportation is Mass Health funded prescription transportation. Patient must have a prescription from a health provider.

TNCs- Transportation Network Companies were identified as companies such as Uber, Lyft, ZenCar, etc.

College students – traditional and older may have transportation needs. It was postulated that some colleges may have funds available to assist with transportation needs.

Van Ride-Shares can be planned - 5+ people can get a van to use and take turns driving it.

Beth shared info about an app called NuRide that helps to match commuters with other riders going to a similar location. Available through “Mass Rides”. This committee could help to promote this app.

Bethany reports that some residents are trying to use Waze, which now has a ride share section (Google also is now offering this).

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15 at 11:30 AM at the DPW Conference room. The future agenda to include Stakeholder identification and reports on Uber/Lyft, CrossTown Connect.

The committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 AM.

Sudbury Transportation Committee  
Customer Identification

*As of 10/2/2018*

<b><u>CUSTOMER/MARKET RATE</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT OPTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>GAPS?</u></b>
Parents of middle and high school athletes	Car, car pool, TNC (transportation network companies e.g. Uber), taxi	Youth < 18; vetted drivers, parents that can't drive/limited car availability/have car but can't afford upkeep - try eBikes/car sharing?
Parents of middle/high school youth in after-school programs	Car, car pool, TNC, taxi	Youth < 18; vetted drivers, parents that can't drive/limited car availability/have car but can't afford upkeep - try eBikes/car sharing?
Employees desiring to use public transport	Car, car pool, TNC, taxi	Not readily available; parking lots full
Senior residents in market-rate housing	Car, car pool, TNC, taxi	Weather, night driving restrictions
High school student transport to after-school jobs/internships	Car, car pool, TNC, taxi	Youth < 18; vetted drivers, parents that can't drive/limited car availability/have car but can't afford upkeep - try eBikes/car sharing?
Student transport to alternative school	Town hires transport	Very expensive
Unexpected needs: missed connection ride home; car failure, etc.	Car, car pool, TNC, taxi	Availability?
<b><u>CUSTOMER/SUBSIDIZED RATE</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT OPTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>GAPS?</u></b>
Working residents in affordable housing	Own car, car pool	Car repair, no car pool, breakdown en route
Residents in affordable housing seeking employment	No car, shared car, own car	No car, own/shared car not available, interview times inaccessible
Senior residents in affordable housing	CoA van, Dial a Ride	Appointments after available ride times, evenings, weekends
Child care transport from/to affordable housing	Car, car pool, TNC	No car, car pool unavailable, affordability

<b><u>CUSTOMER/SUBSIDIZED RATE</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT OPTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>GAPS?</u></b>
Unexpected needs: missed connection ride home; car failure, etc.	Car pool, TNC	Car pool unavailable; affordability
People w/ physical & emotional disabilities or complex medical needs	PT1 Cab (Mass Health), FISH, MWRTA ConA van,	lack of FISH drivers, people not on MassHealth, no nights or weekends
College students (traditional and older students) at local institutions	commuter rail discounts for students, ConA van to Framingham line	how to get to commuter rail?, transportation outside of Sudbury, nights and weekends
people commuting to larger cities (Boston, Cambridge, Waltham, Framingham)	vanshare/park & ride in Framingham, "NuRide" app (check name - through MassRides), rideshare on Waze	designated parking in sudbury, first/last mile challenges, lack of promotion for "NuRide"
Residents looking to bike	Bikes Not Bombs, Volunteer work for a free bike (Bethany to look up name)	people looking for bicycles, lack of rail trail / bike lanes
Youth looking to drive		access to Drivers Ed (kids and parents/guardians), high insurance \$, lack of vehicle
Older residents with changes in vision, health	CoA van (2 day advance reservation, acct creation), Longfellow/Coolidge/Muskt. Shuttle 2 days a week, FISH (except for those w/ severe medical issues), GoGoGrandparent	no nights, weekends