

## SATSAC Minutes – Parking and Ridership Forum

Acton Town Hall

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 7:30pm

### Committee Members Present

David Martin  
Tom Campbell  
Michaela Moran  
Sean Hanley

### Committee Members Not Present

David Wellinghoff, Finance Committee  
Peter Berry, Selectman

### Other Attendees

Corey York, Town Engineer  
Jamie Eldridge, State Senator

Meeting was called to order at 7:33

David presented slideshow

7:52pm - David invited Senator Eldridge to speak

- Looking for feedback on parking and ridership
- Represents Boxborough, Stow Maynard as well
- Reviewed Fitchburg rail improvements
- He can represent a need for additional parking to advocate for funding to support better shuttle service, parking, and rail improvements at the state level

7:56pm - David opened the floor for comments

### Stow Resident

- More shelter would be better at the station
- Graffiti is becoming an issue
- Inadequate parking, biking isn't a solution for everyone
- Cost is prohibitive - better to drive to Alewife
- Trains and schedules are inadequate. Need more express trains.
- It is great, a lot more to be done.

### Acton Resident, Maple St

- Question about the Lazarro property on River St. Could it be used for parking?
- Ridership issue - emergency exit which leads into a fenced path and there is no exit. "if this was a night club, the town would ever let it happen. I've seen train engines on fire. People get attacked, that is a 'death trap'"

Acton Resident, previously sent a note to the committee with ideas.

- Increasing resident parking in the lot

- Shuttle - nothing comes from the North end of Acton. Trim hourly bus that focuses on express trains going to Northern lots.
- Carpool parking. Could there be priority provided there

#### Acton Resident - Sawmill Rd

- Great to have shuttle from CVS plaza (rte 2A and rte 27) there is a lot of new housing in that area

#### Acton Resident - Onita Rd

- Gets a spot at 6:52
- Is there opportunity to purchase homes and lots on River Rd (some are abandoned)
- Not a good way to walk from the School St lot to the station over rte 27, an informal path gets under the bridge but isn't safe.
- The shuttle doesn't run late so if you're coming on a late train, you miss it.
- Could use additional cars during express routes. Typically, 5 cars, should be 6. It gets very crowded.

#### Stow Resident

- Has been on the waiting list for Jones field parking for 2 years. He would pay a lot more for a designated space
- Feels like a second-class citizen getting only 40% of the main lot.
- Detailed the cost of the train, which is prohibitive for those looking for the cheapest option.
- South Acton is in demand because of the express train, West Concord doesn't have that benefit, but has parking.
- There are no "No Smoking" signs on the platform

#### Bolton Resident

- 35 year train rider
- Rented a spot on Jones fields - until they doubled the fee.
- Parked on Maple St before 10:00am and was towed a week ago. Apparently, had to pay cash to the towing company.
- Mentioned something about Gordon Richard's property and parking there.
- Estimates that 200 people per day walked down the tracks to Martin St prior to putting the dead-end fencing in.

#### Stow Resident

- It is a good thing that we are victims to the success of the train station. Waited for 2 years on the Jones field parking waiting list
- The train was the most cost effective way to commute to Boston, until 2 years ago, and now driving a hybrid to Boston is.
- If the station and the line are being improved with Federal and State money, the parking should also be more equitable for out of town riders.

#### Acton Resident, Maple St

- Commend conductors on emergency issues they have dealt with lately
- Train fare cost is an issue - \$330 per month to stand is unacceptable
- Acton elevator was out of service for a period of weeks and is unacceptable

#### Acton Resident, Maple St

- Concerned about adding parking because more parking means more cars. Need to concentrate on the shuttles.
- Cannot leave her house during certain times of the day. The kiss and goodbye is packed in the morning
- Could Littleton be a Zone 6 to encourage people to go there?
- State/post somewhere that other parking options are available.
- Thanked Senator Eldridge for the help with the lighting issue at the station

#### Acton Resident

- WR Grace site would have been a great place for a transportation center
- Leisure riders like to go to Boston mid-day, and the shuttle doesn't work mid-day to accommodate any of the scheduled trains.

#### Acton Resident

- Thank to committee, Senator Eldridge, and Franny for all the work and responsiveness
- Elevator needs to work, it is a very important. A sign said it "was unsafe to use." Keolis was unsure what the issue was. It can't be expressed enough how important that elevator is. There was an inch of standing water in the elevator at one point.
- We expanded the parking in Littleton, and now we can't get a seat in Acton because the Littleton people fill up the trains. Need to have 6 cars for the express. It is standing room only for anything less

#### Acton Resident - Stow St

- A resident has offered to work with Urban planners at MIT
- Parking begets more parking. The WR Grace site would be a good park and ride or flag stop
- Littleton has a disincentive to riding by having them in Zone 7, could they move to Zone 6.
- South Acton is not just a train station, and consideration should be paid to removal of all the buildings in favor of parking.
- Resident only parking on Maple St and Martin St.
- Other towns should participate in shuttles and Acton shouldn't have to bear the full burden
- River St parcel should not be parking and would be much better as a river front park.
- Remove parking on Jones field

#### Acton Resident, Orchard Drive

- Thanks committee and Franny for their work.
- Traffic calming measures should be added to Central St. Cars move far too fast and traffic should be moderated

#### Acton Resident, Maple St

- Promotes the idea of resident parking only on Maple St - stickers for residents and placards for visitors.
- Believes other communities should organize shuttles and commuter programs.

#### Stow Resident

- The train and station is not user friendly. Needs to be there extremely early, and the clarity of how to use the shuttle or other parking options are not clear or publicized. Requires a lot of insider knowledge.

- Questioned the ratio of parking to riders on the Fitchburg line vs other lines.

Acton Resident, Martin St

- Jones field parking is unsafe and with the new development going into that area, there will be more children in that area and an accident is very possible and should be avoided
- Water quality is an issue and the brook runs directly past Jones field and the train station.
- The Stow shopping mall would be a great spot for a shuttle

Acton Resident, Martin St

- Public transportation doesn't necessarily start at the train station. Satellite parking and simple access (i.e. Shuttles) should be considered a smart step forward.
- People are going to want to park for the rail trail too - from Stow, Acton, etc

Acton Resident, Martin St

- The signal on Martin St - the gates are still down, even though the inbound train is at the station. It used to go up since the
- A bulletin board to the train station would be helpful for advertising taxis and other modes of transportation.

Acton Resident, Half Moon Hill

- I would like coffee and a bathroom at the station
- Uber and driverless cars will be a great addition to this issue. And these functions are coming.
- Referenced an interesting video called Heaven and Hell - put out by the woman who started Zip Car - Robin Chase
- We are looking to create a shuttle from North Acton, and are working out availability of the shuttles and access.

### Counts of issues from speakers and other comments

Mentions	Issue
11	Improve parking availability
10	Need North Acton / Central Acton shuttle / Roche Bros. / Other towns
5	Don't want more parking in S. Acton
5	Rail shuttle needs to run later in the evenings
5	Thanks for station improvements
4	Insufficient train service & overcrowding
3	Parking costs too much
2	Add car-pool spots
2	Add parking at WR Grace site
2	Improve shelter from weather
2	Improve scooter/motorcycle parking
2	Make Littleton Zone 6 to attract riders
2	Need more parking for Acton residents
2	Need resident parking on Maple Street
1	Bad station design
1	Improve walking access from school street
1	Need traffic calming measures on Maple Street
1	Non-Acton residents feel second-class

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn, Mr. Hanley seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm