

**TOWN OF ACTON
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2007 MEETING**

7:30 p.m.

Room 126, Town Hall

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, March 27, 2006
Acton Town Hall, Rm 121, 7:30 p.m.

Present: , Jim Yarin (Chair), Leslie Hogan, Bengt Muten, Franny Osman
Visitor Present: David Sharfarz

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

There were no citizen concerns.

David Sharfarz presented his version of the survey for commuters about parking and potential use of shuttle (copied below and also attached along with these minutes)

David spoke about the following, not necessarily in this order:

- Suggested ways to distribute it: post it on the train, email a link to everyone we know, use local merchants, put some at station, windshields, town mailing. Volunteers can ride the trains in and collect the surveys on the train. He suggested using surveymonkey.com to analyze the results after data is input.
- Mentioned we have leverage in parking situation with parking fees such as charging per space or people paying premiums for a guaranteed spot (as we do at Jones Field) and encouraging carpooling. We can also use parking management such as users of later trains have some reserved spots.
- Do surveys on a Tues., Wed. or Thurs., not Fri. or Mon. which have lower ridership. Even Thursdays tend to be lower here, someone said.
- Suggested calling MBCR where Jim Citro works to ask for boarding counts for the days we do the survey to know what percentage we got. Perhaps we can do the survey the same day they do counts.
- Tell MBTA we are doing the survey.
- Can have remote parking lot with every-ten-minute shuttle.
- If we can get permission to put signs at the MBTA station, we can put them up a week in advance of the survey, and three days in advance.
- Nonusers of transportation tend to rank transit low, along with animal control and libraries, compared to police, fire, recreation, snowplowing.
- Make use of vehicles already existing.
- Use color coding of surveys to indicate where they were distributed and whether they are the reverse-commuter version (see below).
- Look at our contract with the LRTA and enlist LRTA's aid as much as possible.

We clarified that this survey is for commuters and won't be given out at the non-commuter locations such as businesses. Another general survey will be distributed later to others. However, we do want to reach commuters who have given up on the station, and are not clear how best to reach them.

Bengt will edit the commuter survey into a version for reverse commuters.

Leslie will send Antonio Santoro an email giving David's contact, telling him that David is interested in becoming the LRTA liaison/advisory board member (whatever position Antonio held).

Franny reported a very little bit on her discussion with Judy Peters of the Council on Aging. The Council on Aging van parks at the Highway Department and is run under agreement with the LRTA. The town leases it and LRTA services it. The van is only used 8 to 3 or 3:30.

Bengt informs us that to go to the TAC yahoo site, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/actontac/

Jim reminds us that we can't have discussions of policy on the yahoo group or by email, only at meetings.

Before next meeting, Jim will clarify with Lauren that we are allowed the table we envision outside Town Meeting, with a large town map or maps on which people can mark what they want from a shuttle bus service.

Franny will create a first draft of the handout for the Town Meeting table. It should include estimates of cost, a review of the history of this shuttle idea, SACRTF committee history, suburban mobility grant application, that we're wondering if there are other viable uses in addition to commuter rail use.

Note that the version of the survey that is copied here is formatted strangely. The attached one is correct.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Franny Osman

-end of minutes except for copy of draft survey below-

DRAFT Town of Acton South Acton Rail Station Access Survey April 2007



South Acton Commuter Lot

Please take a few moments to complete the following questionnaire for a study being conducted by the Town of Acton Transportation Committee concerning commuter access to the rail station in South Acton.

1. Where do you live?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Boxborough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Concord |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly's Corner | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Maynard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Stow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Westford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West Acton | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

2. In a typical five-day work week, how many days are you likely to use any of the following methods to get to South Acton Station?

(Enter "0" to "5" days for each method used as applicable)

- Drive and park in resident permit spot
- Drive and park at metered spot
- Drive and park within walking distance to the rail station
- Ride with family member, friend or co-worker
- Ride a motorcycle
- Ride a bicycle
- Walk
- Don't take the train (*Stay at home / use another mode, etc.*)

3. In a typical five-day work week, how many days are you likely to catch any of the following trains departing South Acton Station?

(Enter "0" to "5" days for each train taken as applicable)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6:21 am to Boston | <input type="checkbox"/> 9:34 am to Fitchburg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6:48 am to Boston | <input type="checkbox"/> 10:32 am to Fitchburg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:18 am express to Boston | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:02 am to Boston |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:37 am to Boston | <input type="checkbox"/> 11:59 am to Boston |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:58 am to Boston | <input type="checkbox"/> Noon to 5:30 pm train in either direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8:41 am to Boston | <input type="checkbox"/> After 5:30 pm train in either direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9:25 am to Boston | |

4. How frequently do you have difficulty finding a parking space at South Acton Station?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 or 2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 times per month | <input type="checkbox"/> Generally don't drive to the Station |

Please turn over to complete the survey

5. If any of the following forms of shuttle bus service existed, how likely would you be to use it for access to South Acton Station?

Probably would use	Would consider	Probably would not	Type of Service
			less than 5 minute ride non-stop from a remote parking lot to South Acton Station
			fixed route bus with posted stops within walking distance of home
			ride pickup by advance reservation or subscription
			other form of bus service <i>specify:</i> _____

6. Is there anything else that the Town Board of Selectmen should know about your perceptions of the need for public transportation service in Acton?

Thank you for your assistance!

If you have questions about this survey, please contact the Town Transportation Committee at tac@acton-ma.gov

Optional:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____