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Christine Joyce

From: Dore' Hunter
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2003 12:29 PM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: Manager; ROYCE_A_FULLER@fleet.com
Subject: Fwd: FW: Commuter rail parking

Walter,

Mr. Fuller offers some constructive ideas. I would suggest that we devote some time at an upcoming BOS meeting to discuss the South Acton Commuter Rail parking situation. It should be visited from time to time in any event. It would probably be a good idea to get some publicity as to the date and time of the discussion as some interested parties might wish to be present and/or contribute their thoughts.

Regards,
Dore' Hunter
Selectman
Tel: 978-263-0882
Fax: 978-263-9230
Email: DoreHunter@aol.com

Christine Joyce

11/17/03

From: FULLER, ROYCE A [ROYCE_A_FULLER@fleet.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2003 10:00 AM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: 'Susanne Fuller'
Subject: Commuter rail parking

Dear Acton Selectman

I'm sure you are aware of the problem, but I just wanted to add my voice to others who have probably expressed similar concerns to you. The South Acton Commuter Rail parking area is extremely inadequate. Resident parking fills up by 6:15 in the morning and cars with resident stickers end up parking at meters. I would estimate that this to be 10 to 20 such cars every day. In addition, the meters fill up by 6:20 or 6:25. Then there is no where to park for the 6:34 train. I believe many people then elect to drive to Alewife or directly to Boston.

Since the lot is full so early in the day, it means the trains will run all day long with very few people boarding from South Acton. This is an underutilization of the commuter rail system and it reduces the potential revenue. Then we get rate hikes to help cover the costs. I strongly believe that if we had sufficient parking at the South Acton lot, such that people could expect to find a spot at any time during the day, more people would utilize it and depend upon it. As it is now, if one cannot get to the lot by 6:15, don't bother - find another way to work. Thus we don't see how big the potential commuter rail ridership really is, because people don't even try after a certain point in the morning.

Are there any plans to address this problem?

Royce Fuller
Sourcing Manager, Global Procurement
FleetBoston Financial
Mail stop: MA DE 10016C
100 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110
Office: 617-434-4398
FAX: 617-434-0538
e-mail: Royce_A_Fuller@Fleet.com

**John Murray**

From: FULLER, ROYCE A [ROYCE_A_FULLER@fleet.com]
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2003 2:33 PM
To: Dore' Hunter; Board of Selectmen
Cc: Manager; 'S Fuller'
Subject: RE: FW: Commuter rail parking

Hello Dore.

Thanks for the response. If you want to enlist some interested attendees to a meeting, I suggest putting a notice on the windshields of the cars in the Commuter Rail parking lot one day about a week in advance. Also, I would be interested in attending with my wife. She has some additional suggestions, which we would like to discuss.

Royce Fuller
Sourcing Manager, Global Procurement
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e-mail: Royce_A_Fuller@Fleet.com

-----Original Message-----

From: DoreHunter@aol.com [mailto:DoreHunter@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2003 12:29 PM
To: bos@acton-ma.gov
Cc: manager@acton-ma.gov; FULLER, ROYCE A
Subject: Fwd: FW: Commuter rail parking

Walter,

Mr. Fuller offers some constructive ideas. I would suggest that we devote some time at an upcoming BOS meeting to discuss the South Acton Commuter Rail parking situation. It should be visited from time to time in any event. It would probably be a good idea to get some publicity as to the date and time of the discussion as some interested parties might wish to be present and/or contribute their thoughts.

Regards,
Dore' Hunter
Selectman
Tel: 978-263-0882
Fax: 978-263-9230
Email: DoreHunter@aol.com

11/14/2003

**Christine Joyce**

From: FULLER, ROYCE A [ROYCE_A_FULLER@fleet.com]
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2003 10:13 AM
To: Board of Selectmen
Subject: FW: Commuter rail parking

resend

Royce Fuller
 Global Procurement
 617-434-4398

-----Original Message-----

From: FULLER, ROYCE A
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2003 9:52 AM
To: 'DoreHunter@aol.com'
Cc: 'S Fuller'; 'bos@action-ma.gov'; 'manage@acton-ma.gov'
Subject: RE: Commuter rail parking

Hello Dore;

Thanks for your note. I recognize the financial constraints by the MBTA and the town of Acton. However, increased ridership from more available parking should help the MBTA with their finances. I know more people would use the train if they could count on parking availability, especially during the entire day.

By the way, in my original note I said the lot fills at 6:15 and I should have said 7:15. I guess I was too energized when I wrote the note, so I didn't proof read it well enough. However, the point of my message is still the same.

A couple of suggestions:

- 1) Notify the neighboring towns of Boxborough, Littleton, Stow, etc. that we will make ALL the spots in the lot available to only Acton residents. Parking at the meters will be allowed only for cars that also have an Acton dump sticker. Give the towns sufficient notice, such as one year, so they can take steps to come up with a solution for their residents (build or increase, their own parking). Then reduce the meter parking to cover just the occasional commuter and expand the Acton sticker area to cover the regular commuters.
- 2) Provide a shuttle bus from the fire station during the two hour morning and two hour evening rush hours. Charge a \$1 per person only for the morning ride to encourage people to take that option as less expensive than the meter, but it still saves time and a walk. Expand the parking at the fire station when that becomes necessary. I believe some people who now park at meters would choose this option, rather than the \$2 meters, even for the 6:58 train, as well as the 7:34, 7:58 and 8:41 trains. You could then expand the Acton sticker lot and reduce the meters.
- 3) Look for other nearby space that can be leased to provide parking by permit to Acton residents. Check across the tracks from the current parking or down near the sports field.

These are just some ideas that come quickly to mind without any time spent on researching them or other options. Maybe we need a small committee to investigate options. Maybe it should include representatives from other towns whose residents use the Acton station.

Thanks again for responding to my concern, which I know is a concern of others as well.

Royce Fuller

11/14/2003

Sourcing Manager, Global Procurement
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-----Original Message-----

From: DoreHunter@aol.com [mailto:DoreHunter@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2003 6:50 PM

To: FULLER, ROYCE A

Cc: bos@acton-ma.gov; manager@acton-ma.gov

Subject: Re: Commuter rail parking

Mr. Fuller,

I am Acton's representative to the MBTA Advisory Board and also on the Route 2 CAC, as well as a former rail commuter for many years so I assure you I am all too familiar with the situation you describe. Among others I have consistently sought more parking along the Fitchburg rail line as a means of taking commuter autos off Route 2. However, the MBTA does not have funds to create more parking, you might have noted the article in today's Globe about its financial situation generally. The MBTA is trying to find ways to encourage others to enter into parking arrangements whereby other parties will build train station parking for profit, or other similar arrangements. The Town of Acton also does not have the resources at present to obtain more land for an increased parking lot or to build a parking garage, assuming that the other siting/building concerns could be successfully addressed, and I am not aware of another entity which might be recruited to assist in this regard. Do you have any suggestions?

Regards,
Dore' Hunter
Selectman
Tel: 978-263-0882
Fax: 978-263-9230
Email: DoreHunter@aol.com