

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 10/4/23

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

David Fixler Co-Chair absent	Sam Liao
Linda Hager Co-Chair	Terri Rawding
Neil Coplan	

Other Attendees

Kevin Davis, DPW

Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:05 PM via ZOOM by Co-Chair Hager
- Future scheduled meeting(s): 11/7

Train Station Pay by phone

- Co-Chair Hager shared the email from Mr. Turkington regarding pay by phone apps as follows:

Sharon daily rate

We spoke with paybyphone and it appears that we can continue using the app with a separate code for Sharon residents. They would simply type in license plate and if RMV has vehicle registered to a Sharon address, the daily fee could be a different rate (say \$2.70 to match the daily rate built into the quarterly pass. The cost is a \$1000 set-up charge and \$399 per month paid by the Town to paybyphone.

If we want to be like the MBTA and absorb the transaction fee for Sharon residents, we could accomplish that as well. While I have no way of knowing based on the data from paybyphone how many of the daily pay in Sharon is done by Sharon residents, below is the revenue paybyphone collects from Sharon lot in the past 13-month period (all transactions are \$0.35):

Month	Transaction Count	Total Revenue	
Aug-23	3936	17,481.25	
Jul-23	3490	15,413.50	

Jun-23	4081	17,899.30
May-23	4245	18,863.30
Apr-23	3670	16,343.80
Mar-23	4029	17,737.80
Feb-23	3246	14,367.40
Jan-23	3648	16,236.10
Dec-22	2769	12,292.80
Nov-22	3345	14,676.65
Oct-22	3283	14,413.05
Sep-22	3419	15,051.95
Aug-22	2794	12,261.55

- Co-Chair Hager said that the contract needs to be reviewed. The new contract has a 45 cent surcharge and Sharon would get all of the money. MBTA spaces get 0%.
- Mr. Davis said that paybyphone plan charges per unique pay rate and based on a list of license plates eligible to receive special fees. The list of plates can be set up how we want. We just need to provide them with the list. The one-time \$1000 set up fee can come out of the train station parking fund and \$399 per month paid by the town. We are paying for their technology to charge residents.
- Mr. Davis said there is a new parking lot attendance who monitors the lot. This is no longer done by the police. Paybyphone has a web book app where the license plate is input to verify it is a Sharon resident. He types each plate. They looked into a plate reader but the police are needed for that. The benefit of stall numbers is that its faster to check.
- Mr. Davis said there are other options but they are more expensive. If we use part of the lot for quarterly's the plates can be scanned. Also they could have car tags. Quarterly could remain the same or be changed.
- Mr. Coplan asked if paybyphone could support quarterly's. Mr. Davis said paybyphone is set up for daily. He is unaware of a quarterly option. He said he will ask if you can prepay /load 90 days into an account.
- There are other processes but they involve expensive technology.
- Co-Chair Hager asked what happens if you drive a different car than the plate you provided and Mr. Davis said the Town would need to create a process to add a temporary plate.
- Mr. Coplan said we need to walk through the functionality of how quarterly passes would work. We don't want a blocker.
- Co-Chair Hager asked if the Town looked at other options.
- Mr. Davis said they looked at Air Garage. He said the Select Board makes the decision.
- Mr. Coplan said we need to digest the process. We need to meet again to discuss.

- Ms. Rawding said we need to know the process we are using and how can we make it better and easier.
- Mr. Davis said the parking lot is only checked once per day.
- Mr. Davis said Air Garage is a 70-30 split. It is significantly more. They do enforcement, signage, pot hole repairs and snow removal for this fee.
- Co-Chair Hager said we can have the MBTA do it. Mr. Davis said in this scenario you lose control over enforcement.
- Mr. Davis said we should focus on cost.
- Co-Chair Hager said that Mr. Turkington asked for TABS's thoughts on this.
- Mr. Coplan said for any bid process we should have 3 options with cost/benefits to make a decision. Need to factor in quarterly. He suggested a side by side comparison.
- Co-Chair Hager asked Mr. Davis if this can be done.
- Mr. Davis said the benefit of Air Garage is like the MBTA they handle all of the lot. The Town no longer worries about how it gets done. The downside is there are no stipulations.
- Mr. Davis said there is Premium Parking which has an automatic reader. They require all info ahead of time. It is a gated entry. You need to type your info in to get through the gate. It is very costly. He said he is awaiting a quote. He said the process we have right now is the cheapest.
- Mr. Davis said he will create options A/B/C and compare. He said he will include daily versus quarterly, what we have and future options. Mr. Coplan and Mr. Davis will work together to review Citi Hall Systems, Air Garage, Premium Parking and current costs.
- Mr. Coplan suggested to see what programs can support a multi-day program. Add to comparative analysis.
- Mr. Liao said we need a quantitative indicator for best value like convenience.
- Mr. Davis said Citi hall is 25 cents per transaction.
- Mr. Liao did not think a gated system is a good idea. Whatever we implement see if it increases subscriptions for quarterly parking. See if there is a demand increase in January to March.

Minutes

- Tabled until next meeting.

Charge of TAB (topic to be continued)

- Co-Chair Hager said we need the whole committee to discuss the charge. Each member should develop 10 suggestions regarding the charge that are not so broad that doesn't take up a lot of time.

Other

- Mr. Davis said stairs are done, operational and safe.
- Mr. Davis said bike racks are being bolted into place.
- Mr. Davis said he has not received feedback on bike lanes on South Main Street.
- Mr. Davis said he will compile e-bike revenue.

Adjournment

- Mr. Liao moved to adjourn and Mr. Coplan seconded the motion. The TAB voted 4-0-0 in favor of adjournment at 8:10 PM.