

It saddens me to discover that the city of Dover is now seriously considering a parking fee to use the Chestnut Street parking lot, in particular, for those of us who use the Amtrak Downeaster train for public transportation, either south into Boston or north to various destinations in Maine.

My husband and I have taken advantage of the Downeaster senior discount numerous times for trips into Boston. Between gas expense, parking expense, the hassle of contending with traffic and probably getting lost to boot, it is a much more pleasant, less expensive, and I believe safer mode of travel for many of us.

I would like to understand a little more why the city feels that this new fee is necessary. Is it for a particular budget revenue line item like snow removal? If so, how have they budgeted for this in the past? Has the city thought how this might not only impact the use of public transportation, but also those who are using the Chestnut Street lot for other reasons such as the community trail?

I hope this letter to the editor not only prompts others to write to their city councilors, but to also initiate more thoughtful discussion by those in city hall.