

To Whom It May Concern:

This is not a statement in opposition to the proposal, but there are two issues that I believe need to be considered in any approval.

The first is, as I understand it, there is a proposal for a substantial increase in the cost of using the parking facilities. My question is: what increased benefit or improvements will be made available in exchange for that extra cost? Will it be the same level of service---drive your own car in, park it, leave it, get it on your return and drive away? Or is there to be some staff to offer assistance? Any kind of covered parking? More security?

Or is the money simply going to go into the coffers of the owner/operator with little or no commitment for better service? I assume the company makes a healthy profit now after the usual and regular paving, plowing, building maintenance, etc., so there should be some serious justification for a need for increasing fees and some assurance that additional revenue will be translated into meaningful improvements.

The second is a more or less general comment. I have observed in the context of other companies and/or commercial ventures that "privatization" often leads to (1) increased fees, services charges, etc. and (2) a reduction in capital expenditures, number of employees and/or salaries and benefits, and an overall cut back on the quality of services. The emphasis all too often shifts from the quality of product or services to the improvement of "the bottom line". The principals involved in the company pay themselves handsomely, but all too often the day-to-day operation of the enterprise suffers.

I'm not familiar with the level of oversight...if there is any...that exists now between the State and C&J. Given the level of State funding for most programs my guess is that it would not amount to much, but at least there would be some potential for oversight that will likely be lacking if the entire operation is turned over to the company. This is not criticism necessarily of how C&J has operated---in general it has offered a high quality product,---but my concern would be what happens if there is a change in management or a sale of the business. Who would then be responsible for seeing that quality service is maintained at a reasonable cost? We are talking about "public" transportation here and that should be the overarching focus of any decision that you make in response to the current proposal.

Thank you.

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