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NEWS RELEASE

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Pay for parking by phone service now available at Sacramento Valley Station parking lots

The City of Sacramento has gone live with a Pay-by-Phone service at two Sacramento Valley Station parking lots, adding to the list of improvements the City has made at the station and the surrounding parking lots since the City acquired the property and eight acres in December 2006. About 1.3 million passengers a year stop at the historic depot traveling on Amtrak, Capitol Corridor and San Joaquin trains as well as via Regional Transit.

The new service enables customers who are parking and catching a train to simply take note of their lot number and space number and then proceed to board the train and use their cell phone to pay for parking. The service is available at both the parking lot in front of the depot at 5th and I streets (lot 293) and the jury/courthouse parking lot (lot 297).

After a one-time account set-up, the system securely stores credit card information and automatically retrieves it during a transaction. To access the system, call 916-SAC-PARK (722-7275), or visit the Verrus website at www.paybyphone.com. More information including Frequently Asked Questions is available at www.sacpark.org. The system will also send customers a text message well in advance of the time expiring, so the customer has an opportunity to purchase another block of time remotely.

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The vendor, Verrus, is providing the service the first month for free to all customers. After the first month, the service will cost 35 cents per transaction.

Background

In addition to Pay-by-Phone, the City has made numerous improvements to the depot parking lots and the facility in the two-plus years it has owned the building.

Parking-related improvements

- ◆ Improved access to the station and surrounding parking lots to make more user-friendly.
- ◆ Free WiFi service in the waiting room.
- ◆ Installation of Pay-By-Space Machines for customers to pay for parking. The machines accept coins, cash, and credit cards (Visa & MasterCard).
- ◆ Arranged for 145 Amtrak employees to park elsewhere to free up more convenient parking spaces for station customers.
- ◆ Instituted a “commuter special” rate at the Old Sacramento Garage at a reduced rate of \$4 per day.
- ◆ Improved lighting and pedestrian pathway to Old Sacramento Garage.
- ◆ Addition of a drop-off and pick-up area south of the depot.
- ◆ Lease of Caltrans right-of-way to add 20 stalls to the parking lot and improve traffic flow.
- ◆ Improved way-finding signage.
- ◆ Added bike parking.
- ◆ Improved lighting.

Facility improvements

- ◆ Cleaned-up building and rid the building of birds and pests and abated lead paint and asbestos in selected areas.
- ◆ Renovated and opened to public a conference room for community meetings.
- ◆ Converted offices for part-time use by staff in parking and police.
- ◆ Refurnished historic light poles in front of building.
- ◆ Commissioned assessment reports on the building and historic features.
- ◆ Added new natural gas service to the building.

The next round of improvements will focus on structural and seismic upgrades, and historical preservation (pending funding and report recommendations) and repairs such as upgrading the electrical system.