

For immediate release

Contact – Gail Ferlazzo, Associate Director
Memorial Union, Iowa State University
515-294-2301

Changes at Memorial Union Parking Ramp

Changes in the Memorial Union Parking Ramp to a “pay on foot” system will take place at a future date to be determined. The new parking system in the ramp will replace an antiquated system, speed up exit lane traffic and provide better accountability for parking revenue.

People may be familiar with this type of parking system at an airport ramp or city-owned ramps in larger metro areas. The key change with the new system is that daily and hourly users will pay for their parking *before* they return to their vehicles, using one of three pay stations or with a cashier at the hotel main desk.

There will still be south and north entrances and the single north exit. Work was completed last semester at the north and south entrances (drive lanes, card readers and ticket machines).

The pay booth at the exit has been demolished and replaced with a temporary booth. Use of that booth will stop when card- and ticket-reading machines, a gate at the exit and three automated pay stations are installed. The pay stations are free-standing machines that resemble a large ATM machine.

The machines will be at these locations:

- In the parking ramp elevator lobby on level 1
- In the Memorial Union first floor east entrance by the newspaper boxes (near MU café & Onion’s)
- In the Memorial Union second floor hallway, near the Gold Room. This machine will be moved to the northeast elevator tower addition to the MU when that is completed in July 2007.

The machines will accept bills, coins and credit cards. Tickets are validated and returned to drivers. A validated ticket inserted into the ticket reader at the exit lifts the gate arm and drivers are free to go.

Drivers who have semester or annual permits for the ramp no longer will have to deal with tickets. They will be issued “proximity cards”. Card readers at the entrances and exit will permit them to come and go as they need to.

The new system offers more options for units or individuals that want to pay for parking for guests or clients. Such tickets must be ordered at least three business days before the date needed. Contact Kim Hasstedt at 515-294-9635 or Hasstedt@iastate.edu for more information on these ticket validation options.

The University Book Store will continue to pay for one hour of ramp parking for drivers who make a minimum \$10 purchase at the store.

Here is how the MU parking system works for hourly or daily users:

Comment [1]:

1. Take a ticket as you enter the ramp.
2. Take the ticket with you after you have parked your vehicle.
3. When it’s time to return to your vehicle, stop first at one of three pay stations or at the MU Main Desk to pay for your parking. A validated ticket will be returned to you.
4. You have a 15-minute grace period to get to your vehicle and arrive at the exit gate (this length can be adjusted by MU staff on high-traffic days).
5. At the exit gate, insert your validated ticket into the ticket reader to raise the gate arm. It will not be possible to pay at the exit gate.