

## Lancaster Amtrak station to add parking fee-collection kiosks

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The parking attendant booth at the Lancaster Amtrak station sits vacant as usual on April 15

Ever wonder if you're the only one putting the \$5 daily parking fee in an envelope bearing your space number at the Lancaster Amtrak station?

Soon you'll have to wonder no longer.

What Bob Shoemaker, president of Lancaster City Alliance, calls "the guard-station honor system" is going away.

Over the next four to six weeks, Amtrak's new parking vendor, Chicago-based Standard Parking, will be installing pay kiosks inside the station.

Staff will be there to help people learn to use the machines in the early going, Amtrak spokesman Craig Schulz said this week.

The current system features a booth near the passenger parking lot to the west of the station.

It normally sits empty with a sign in the window that says "No attendant on duty. Please pay by envelope."

That's the honor system Shoemaker described.

The best news of all: "There is no increase in rates currently in the works," Schulz said.

Terry Kauffman, who as chairman of the Lancaster County Transportation Authority oversaw recent renovations to the station, said he knows why Amtrak hired Standard Parking.

"They'll probably generate more revenue" with a company hired to police the parking, he said.

And Kauffman described himself as "skeptical" that parking rates aren't on the way up.

Schulz said the rates are reviewed often.

But, again, "we have no plans to increase the parking rates as of right now," he said.

source: *LancasterOnline.com*