



City of Tampa Parking Division

Parking Equipment Automation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Parking Equipment Automation? Parking Equipment Automation is the parking industry technique of implementing a self-regulating, parking payment system within the parking facility. In today's environment, an automated parking facility converts the role of the garage cashier to that of a parking facility ambassador. The parking facility ambassador is able to provide additional levels of customer service including instructing the parking patron how to complete their transaction through the use of a centralized pay station.

How does Parking Equipment Automation work? Parking equipment automation works quite simply.

1. Prior to exiting the parking facility, the parking patron inserts their original, machine-dispensed entry ticket into a Central Pay Station located at any number of convenient pedestrian access points within the parking facility.
2. The Central Pay Station calculates the parking fee due and the parking patron inserts U.S. currency, coin or valid Visa/MasterCard credit card to make their payment. After the payment is made, the Central Pay Station encodes the machine-dispensed, entry ticket as paid. The parking patron now has 15 minutes to retrieve their vehicle and exit the facility.
3. As the parking patron exits the facility through the exit lane, they are required to insert their paid, machine-dispensed entry ticket into the ExpressParc Exit Station. Upon instant payment verification, the exit gate will rise.

1. Entry Ticket Dispenser



2. Central Pay Station



3. ExpressParc Exit Station



What is a Central Pay Station? A Central Pay Station is the primary piece of automated equipment with a parking facility designed to process parking fee payments. Central Pay Stations are typically located at convenient pedestrian access points within the parking facility. Prior to exiting an automated parking facility, parking patrons are required to pay their parking fee at the Central Pay Station. For convenience, the pay stations accept, U.S. currency, coin and valid Visa/MasterCard credit cards.

What is the ExpressParc Exit Station? The ExpressParc Exit Station is a device used to accept paid, machine-dispensed entry tickets in the parking facility exit lane. In order to raise the exit gate and exit the automated parking facility, the parking patron must insert their paid machine-dispensed, entry ticket into the device. The device recognizes the Central Pay Station encoded transaction and verifies that payment has been made.

In the event that a parking patron fails to utilize the Central Pay Station for payment processing, the ExpressParc Exit Station is an additional piece of automated equipment that is capable of accepting machine-dispensed, entry tickets for payment processing. The Station, which interfaces with an on-line credit card host for fee calculation and credit card processing, is extremely safe and cost efficient because it reduces the need for cashiers to process transactions at the facility exit.