



NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY

Press Release

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Shuttle Service between Maritime Garage and South Norwalk Train Station to Begin October 6

To ease parking shortages at the SoNo train station, the Norwalk Parking Authority and the Norwalk Transit District have developed a *Park and Ride* plan with free shuttle service between the train station and the Maritime Garage. *Park and Ride* service will begin on October 6, 2008.

A new shuttle bus will run between the Maritime Garage and the train station on weekdays every 10 minutes from 6:00 to 9:15 a.m. and from 3:45 to 7:45 p.m.

According to Lou Schulman, Administrator of the Transit District, funding was provided through a Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality (CMAQ) capital and operating grant from the Federal Transit Administration and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Ongoing expenses are budgeted through the Transit District and the Parking Authority. "We are very excited about this program. A similar shuttle service in Westport has been very successful and depending upon the success of the Norwalk shuttle, the Transit District may eventually offer extended hours of operation.," said Schulman.

Kathryn Hebert, Administrative Services Manager for the City of Norwalk, said, "The Parking Authority is pleased to offer this program and collaborate with the Transit District. It takes advantage of the space availability at the Maritime Garage while providing economic relief to daily commuters. At this point, after the peak rush hour, we've outgrown our parking capacity at the South Norwalk Railroad Station. With the cost of gas increasing, we wanted to offer other convenient parking alternatives and a way to get people from point A to point B to be able to take the train to their destinations."

Motorists and commuters parking in the Maritime Garage will pay a discounted rate of \$4 per day, which represents \$1,056 in annual savings to commuters. The reduced parking rate includes free round trip shuttle service to and from the train station. Commuters need only flash their parking stub upon boarding the shuttle for the 5 minute ride.

Those who choose to park at the SoNo train station will pay a slight fee increase from \$7 to \$8. For those who do not park and want to just hop on the shuttle, the cost is \$1.25 each way.

“In the long term, we would like to expand the shuttle program to off peak hours. The idea being is to park your car, take the train and come to SoNo to experience our cultural diversity, eat at eclectic restaurants, shop at interesting stores and stroll around our waterfront”, said Ms. Hebert.

For more information, contact the Parking Authority at 203-831-9063 or the Transit District at 203-852-0000 or email at customerservice@norwalkct.org