

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 22, 2023

MEDIA ALERT

Parking Meter Upgrades Offer More Ways to Pay

(Chico, CA – February 22, 2023) The City of Chico will soon be offering more ways to pay for parking.

Beginning on February 27, 2023, consumers can pay with coin, card, and the Passport Parking mobile payment application available for download at the <u>App Store</u> and <u>Google Play</u>. Mobile payment will be available at all metered locations including existing coin meters. Look for stickers or signs present in or around the parking area for information regarding time limits and parking zones. Parking rates will remain unchanged.

"Smart Meter Kiosks are being installed in the downtown core from 1st Street to 4th Street and Salem Street to Wall Street, including all City Municipal Parking Lots," said Wyatt West, Project Manager for the City of Chico Public Works Engineering. "Additionally, over the next 2-3 months, new Smart Meter Kiosks will be expanded to other areas throughout Chico, including South Campus and Mansion Park areas."

One of the benefits of the upgraded system includes pay-and-go parking. The user will enter the license plate number of the vehicle they wish to park at any of the conveniently located kiosks to pay for their parking session, if paying by either coin or credit card. If using a smartphone, the user will include their license plate number and credit card to pay on the mobile app. There is no parking receipt, nor will users need to return to their vehicle to display receipt of payment.

Rather than running back to the meter, the Passport Parking Mobile App includes the ability to simply add additional time to your parking session. Once a user is registered in the mobile app, future parking sessions are only a phone tap away to pay for your parking session. In addition, Passport Parking is the same mobile app used by Chico State.

Downtown merchants and businesses have the opportunity to offer pre-paid parking to their customers or employees in the mobile app. For merchants who are looking for more information on how to utilize the many benefits to businesses, details are available on the City's website at https://chico.ca.us/pod/mobile-parking-app.

The City of Chico is set to resume parking enforcement for all metered areas on Monday, February 27, 2023.

More information about the new system can be found at https://chico.ca.us/parking-transportation. For questions, contact Traffic@Chicoca.gov or call Public Works Engineering at (530) 879-6900.

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. For more information, visit www.chico.ca.us.

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Page 2