

First Friday Noontime Forum Series
“Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster”

Highlights - April 2010 Discussion

PARKING RE-VISITED

Mark Vergenes and Tom Mathews, Lancaster Parking Authority

- An authority is a governmental body created to finance and/or operate specific public works projects without tapping the general taxing powers of a municipality—the City guarantees the debt of the Parking Authority.
- Although local government plays a role in the creation and appoints the members of its board, the Authority is not part of the municipal government—it is an independent agency of the Commonwealth.
- In 2007 the Authority debt was refinanced. Monies were included for new East King St. garage.
- The Authority is responsible for covering all operating costs and increasing rates when appropriate.
- Annual operating budget is approximately \$4.4 million.
- The new Lancaster Newspapers parking garage and the proposed Red Rose Transit Authority garage are privately owned and in direct competition with the Parking Authority garages.
- The Parking Authority is not involved with the parking at the Amtrak Station. The James St. Improvement District is measuring the current parking situation and looking at options to address the shortfall of spaces.
- The quality of the experience in visiting the City begins with the parking experience. Quality vs. quantity is key.
- The Parking Authority has a new strategic plan. Improved customer service is a component of the new plan.