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# Work begun to add parking at train station

## Temporary lot first, then a parking structure will be built

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Construction is under way to add 950 parking spaces at the Irvine train station where 675,000 passengers come and go each year, making it the busiest of any station in the county.

The council recently approved an additional \$950,000 for the original \$24.9 million estimate – all construction costs will be funded through the state and Orange County Transportation Agency.

A temporary parking lot is expected to be finished in May or June. The parking garage construction is expected to begin in early July and take one year to finish.

Mayor Beth Krom has said that more parking spaces have been needed for a long time. She hopes that the additional parking will encourage more people to use trains.

The train station has 547 parking spaces available with an additional 75 on-street spaces on Ada across from the station. The structure will have 1,497 spaces.

### The parking structure

- 1,500 parking spaces on four levels.
- About 20 spaces at the opening will be marked and wired for electric vehicles. An additional 35 spots will be wired to allow for more electric vehicle spots.
- Conduit will be built into the structure to allow for the possibility of adding solar panels.
- The structure has five spots open for commuter-related retail shops, such as a dry cleaner. A coffee shop already exists inside the train station. The retail stores will be inside the structure on the ground level, facing Ada.

The garage is expected to be at 85 percent capacity by 2011, with it being fully used during large events.

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