



Media Release

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Calgary Parking Authority tests new automated tire chalking system

Closer watch on use of short-stay parking

The Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) has begun a 21-day trial of an automated tire chalking system. The system, the first of its kind in North America, is intended to increase the CPA's ability to respond to the concerns of business owners and residents who live in time-restricted areas, such as residential parking permit zones.

"The existing process of enforcing time-limited parking zones is very inefficient," said Dale Fraser, CPA General Manager. "Our Enforcement officers currently chalk tires by hand and are unable to respond to the volume of citizen complaints."

With the autoChalk system, cameras mounted on an Enforcement vehicle communicate with a laser and global positioning system (GPS) to capture digital photos of vehicles in violation of time-limited parking zones. The technology allows Enforcement officers to remain in their vehicle while collecting photos of vehicles in violation and their license information. A second officer in the Enforcement vehicle verifies that the equipment is functioning, the vehicle in question is illegally parked and a violation ticket should be issued.

Data captured by the autoChalk system is then downloaded to the CPA network, the registered owner is identified and a violation ticket is mailed to the recipient. The violation ticket will contain photo information that provides clear evidence of the parking infraction.

"The system will provide photographic evidence of violations and allow the CPA to more effectively monitor short-stay parking without increasing levels of staff," said Fraser. "We also expect an increased level of compliance due to the increased likelihood of being detected."

The autoChalk trial period will result in tickets being mailed to people who are in violation of the posted time limits. The fine amount remains at \$40 for parking in excess of a posted time limit in a residential community. The trial will be operated in areas where business owners and residents have expressed concerns about overtime parking such as LRT stations and other high-traffic areas around educational institutions and hospitals.

The Calgary Parking Authority provides quality municipal parking services throughout the downtown and inner city.

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Media Contact:

Shelley Trigg, Public Affairs Coordinator
Calgary Parking Authority
620 – 9th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1L5
537-7099 540-6867 (cell)
email shelley.trigg@calgaryparking.com
www.calgaryparking.com