Calgary Pilots Drive-by Digital Chalking by Tannery Creek Systems

July 14, 2006

The Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) completed a three week pilot of an automated tire chalking system supplied by Tannery Creek Systems. The system, the first of its kind in North America, is intended to increase CPA’s ability to respond to parking concerns of business owners and residents living in time-restricted areas, such as residential parking permit zones.

Calgary is one of the fastest growing cities in North America with a population of about 1 million which brings a growing need for enforcement services. "The existing process of enforcing time-limited parking zones is 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."

Tannery Creek’s autoChalk system, consisting of a laser, GPS and rugged cameras mounted on an Enforcement vehicle, 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.

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 contains crisp photographic information with clear parking infraction evidence. The entire system is capable of being automated from drive-by scanning to the mail out of the ticket.

Following a week of in-field testing, the live trial operated in areas where business owners and residents have expressed concerns about overtime parking and high-traffic locations such as Light Rail Transit stations, educational institutions, hospitals and popular entertainment districts.

Al Bazar CAPP, Manager of Parking Enforcement, commented "CPA is pleased with the results of the pilot. We saw significant improvements in productivity, decreased Parker cheating, elimination of officer conflict with illegal parkers and full operation even in heavy rain. Productivity rates increased by 250% during the pilot test. A 500% increase over manual chalking processes is conservatively estimated with a 'customized for Calgary' version of autoChalk."

Bill Franklin, President of Tannery Creek said “Effective time zone management is ideal for the entire community, increasing customer traffic, business viability and home-owner satisfaction resulting in a more workable, livable city. AutoChalk makes Calgary’s parking enforcement more productive and efficient."

Calgary is evaluating deployment of digital chalking throughout the city.

The Calgary Parking Authority is committed to provide value and enhanced mobility for citizens of Calgary through the strategic provision of quality municipal parking facilities and services.

Tannery Creek provides automation for the parking enforcement industry including autoChalk, a drive-by digital chalking system.

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