

# Pay by Licence Plate Fork Lift Upgrade Experiences from the Front Lines in Saskatoon

## Bill Franklin, P.Eng. CPA Conference, Vancouver October 2015

Tannery Creek Systems Inc.



- > Who is Tannery? And what do we do?
- Pay by License Plate (PBL) concept
- Avoiding Pitfalls in a Fork Lift Upgrade for PBL
  - Experiences from Saskatoon
  - With Contribution from Andrew Hildebrandt, Director of Community Services, and his crew



#### ➤ Who is Tannery?

- Canadian company located near Toronto
- Specialize in parking enforcement automation
- Software/hardware, engineering & project management
- ➤ What do we do?
  - Digital chalking
  - ➤ Scofflaw
  - Permits
  - > Pay by Plate, Pay by Space
  - Mobile and stationary systems



## autoChalk Mobile PBL in Action



In Calgary autoChalk scans 30,000 vehicles (and plates) daily for the ParkPlus PBL parking system. It is a combination of mobile and stationary LPR.





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# Saskatoon: The Way it Was

## ➢ Old Way

- Over 3000 parking spaces
- Individual pay meters per parking stall
- Simple operation
- ➤ New Way
  - Desired to modernize & make more parker friendly
  - Support new technology such as pay by app
  - Pay anywhere and move around
  - Easily extend parking duration
  - Increase productivity of staff
  - Facilitate downtown business
  - Chose Pay by License Plate (PBL)



- > Replaces pay & display or parking stall meters
- No need to go back to car to display receipt
- Parker enters license plate info & pays at kiosk
  Or by smart phone app or IVR
- Plate, time, duration, pay station info sent to central server
- > autoChalk receives notice of these sessions
- autoChalk LPR scans at 40 km/h checking for valid paid sessions

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# Pay by Plate Advantages

#### For Parkers

- > Pay only, pay slip on vehicle dash not needed
- Notification of parking expiry & can extend time
- Initiate sessions via smartphone
- Fast and convenient, no coins needed

#### ➢ For the City – enables, facilitates

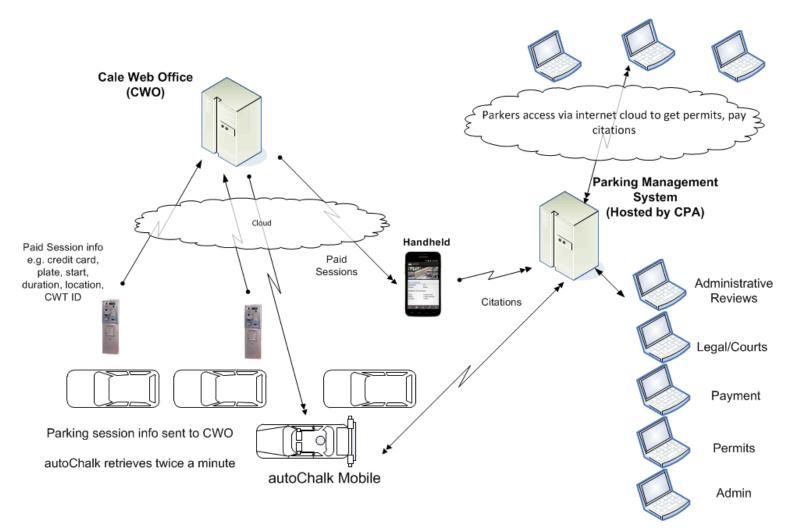
- Enforcement 3x faster & mail-out tickets even faster
- Credit card
- Zone pricing
- Block face marking (5% more parking than individual stalls)
- Use PBL for hourly, daily and contract parkers
- Green parking (e.g. small cars get discounts)
- Gateless garages
- Pre-booking for premium spots
- Excellent parking utilization data

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## The Plan....

#### Simplified Pay by Plate Parking System In Saskatoon



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Install and deploy (in winter)

- > 325 Cale Web Terminals (Solar powered, 4G/LTE)
- About 10 handhelds
- A central database for paid sessions and citations
- Four vehicle mounted LPR units
- Piece of cake?

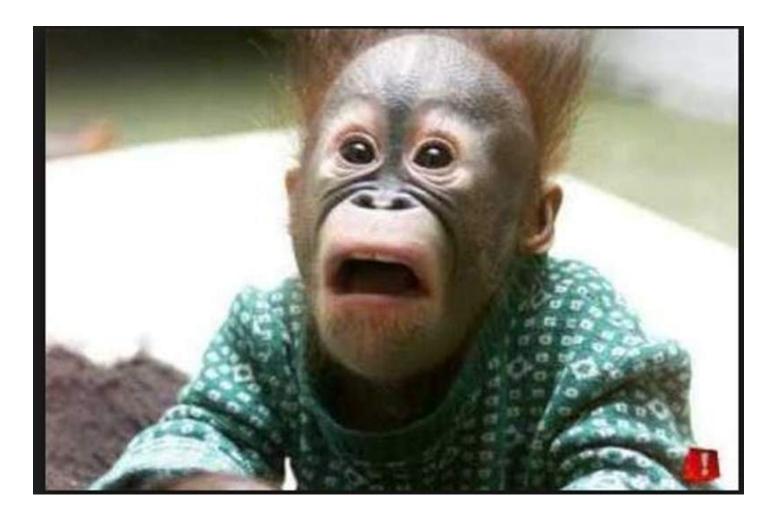












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## You Might Want to Avoid This



#### WHAT THE \*&^%\$# ∧ ₩ ♥ IS GOING ON!!



### IT'S TIME FOR **PUNISHMENT**...

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#### Before starting assign a strong project manager

Convene a working group and brainstorm

- > Not just parking, reach out to other departments
- External, e.g. Downtown business association
- > What are implications of doing this project?

Identify critical features and nice to haves

- How does staffing, skill sets change
- Operational changes, e.g. Credit card, zones, dynamic pricing
- IT, legal, finance, collections, policing, enforcement, maintenance, roads, engineering, planning
- > City policies e.g. parking policy, credit card payments, enforcement



#### > Develop scenarios such as:

 $\succ$  Looking at the whole system, how does it work from a: >User point of view, e.g. parkers, reviewing appeals >Technical e.g. IT, networks, security, reliability Identify differences between current & new systems >How do these differences get accommodated? >How will legacy systems be accommodated? > Will it be deployed in stages or 100% from get go? > Note: highly recommend pilot



> More scenarios such as:

- Communication to stake holders, influencers
  - Intent of project, progress, going live, issues
  - ➢Politicians
  - ≻Media
  - ≻Web
- Impact on revenue
  - ➢Parking fees
  - ≻Citations
  - Revenue likely will be disrupted
    - ➤ E.g. warning citations initially? = no revenue



Even more scenarios such as:

- Parker behaviour, learning and adaptation
  - Consider staff acting as ambassadors
- Technical failures
  - ≻Single machines
  - Larger challenges such as a major communication failure which affects all machines or enforcement
- Operational program once launched
  - >Maintenance e.g. regular inspections, spare parts
  - ➤Staffing
  - >Upgrades and adaptations to solve recurring issues



Output at end of this planning is a document describing:

Functionality and user scenarios

- Strong project plan
- Project and implementation team and roles
- > Operational model following release
- > Well thought out contingencies

> Achieve "buy in" from all primary stakeholders



- Strong collaborative project manager (PM)
- Detailed project plan with reasonable timeframe including a Gantt chart and critical path
- Each group (parking, legal, etc.) should have a single lead manager or go to person

Task	Description	Owner	Start Date	Finish Date	Status
Install Pilot CWTs	First 25 CWTs for pilot implementation	Andy	Jan 15	Feb 15	50% done
IT equipment	Equipment speced & ordered	Zach	Jan 22	Feb 28	ordered
Test Plan	For pilot verification	Judy	Dec 15	Mar 1	Draft done



The technology parts need to work in part and as a whole

- Pay station system
- Smart phones and IVR
- Parking management system
- Bridge to legacy systems
- Mobile photo and handheld enforcement systems

Recommend PM go to other cities to learn

- Consider expert assistance, i.e. hands-on people who have done these projects before
- > Assess each subsystem's ability to perform



# **Groups Impacted: Parking**

- Project management parking group the prime?
- Construction
  - ➤Survey and payment machine locations
  - ➢Civil and Electrical work
  - ➢Painting, Signage
- > Additional and possibly different people, new skillsets
  - ➤Training on new devices
  - Electronic and computer
  - >New partners (e.g. IT colleagues)
- Different enforcement equipment & techniques
- >Ambassadors

# **Groups Impacted: Finance**

- ➤ Finance
  - Credit card transactions, new?
  - You will need Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS)
  - Paying for citations on line
  - > New methods for auditing payments?
  - Does your credit card policy stipulate all client info must be local to your jurisdiction?

>For example within the province, within Canada

Contract parkers

# **Groups Impacted: IT**

≻IT

- In general the system must be 24/7 hence
  - Communication system needs to be highly reliable
  - Computing resources always on line
  - ≻How do upgrades get handled?
- Information security
- Easy remoting vendors to diagnose problems, train clients how does that impact infosec
- Integration with legacy systems
- > A go to person for operational issues

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# **Groups Impacted: Legal**

#### Legal

- Information privacy
- New offer/acceptance model
  - Veracity of equipment and status of payment
  - Accuracy of enforcement equipment
  - Credibility that will withstand legal challenge
- Case law and precedents



## Highly recommend pilot

- Pick a location where it is <u>not politically</u> <u>sensitive</u>
- Mgmt needs to dress down, hit the street, try the equipment and talk to clients (i.e. parkers, merchants)
- Test until satisfied <u>all</u> parts are working smoothly (from parkers to payments to enforcement to legal to operational)
- Roll out system





#### PBL is a good system

- Opens doors on features and convenience
- Must be planned and executed carefully
- Saskatoon PBL is over the hump and running smoothly



#### Saskatoon's autoChalk Mobile Units for PBL



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