Driven to Excess – Robotic Parking Systems Helps Urban Areas Create Space for Parking

Every driving trip begins and ends with parking and much of the air pollution and traffic congestion in urban areas results from drivers cruising around looking for a parking space. This is a true whether drivers are searching for curbside parking, circling inside a parking garage or trying to find a good spot in a mall parking lot.

One example of this is shown in a research study conducted by Transportation Alternatives on a major commercial corridor on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. They found that the demand for curbside parking in New York City far exceeds the supply. Part of this is the fact that curbside parking is free or priced far below garage rates.

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The low price of curbside parking unleashes bargain-hunting drivers. Those who find spaces stay longer. And when all spaces at the curb are occupied, other cars looking for parking circle in traffic for an elusive space. This is a direct cause of air pollution, illegal parking and traffic congestion, all of which impact the environment, economy, health and quality of life.

The Transportation Alternative’s study revealed:

- Motorists “cruise” a total of 366,000 miles a year as they search for metered parking in the area: further than a one-way trip to the moon.

- Drivers cruise on average seven blocks (.37 miles) to find a metered parking space. During peak periods, motorists cruise an average of 14 blocks (.7 miles).

- Drivers searching for curbside parking in the survey area generate 325 tons of Carbon Dioxide annually.

- On metered blocks, curb parking is completely occupied up to half the time. Unmetered blocks are completely full up to 75% of the time.

- The average vehicle parks for 93 minutes. Each metered parking spot turns over 5.8 times per day. Each unmetered spot turns over 2.3 times per day.

Other studies by Transportation Alternatives have documented that between 28% and 45% of traffic on some streets is generated by cruising for parking.

Many cities lack sufficient parking close to downtown areas often because of the large space required for conventional garages. Automated parking garages such as Robotic Parking Systems can fit the same number of cars as about half the space and opens up numerous opportunities for locating garages throughout downtown areas. Since all cars are dropped off and retrieved at ground level entry / exit stations, this eliminates cruising through the garage looking for a space and patrons of the garage receive premium service.

Sufficient Robotic Parking garages in an urban area could reduce curbside parking and the inherent cruising for a space as well as improve the environment for bicyclists, pedestrians and other drivers.
Robotic Parking Systems Offer the Convenience of Premium Valet Service Without the Valet

Access to the parking facility is limited to street level terminals. All entry and exit terminals are located in a convenient central area which is easy to monitor and secure.

Robotic Parking Systems does the parking for you. No more walking around a parking deck, going up and down stairs or waiting for an elevator.

No more remembering where the car is parked or searching for it. To pick up the car, just enter the well lit and secure lobby, and put the parking card into a kiosk. Large screens display the terminal where the car can be retrieved.

Valet service ease - but you keep your keys. Robotic Parking Systems offer the convenience of premium valet parking without the worries of someone else driving your car.