

# Advanced technology to make parking in Richmond easier?

By BRANDON SHULLEETA Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted: Friday, November 18, 2016 2:45 pm

The city of Richmond soon will start using more technologically advanced parking pay stations that could make it easier for drivers to pay for parking — and potentially avoid tickets.

The city announced Friday that it will enhance technology for its nearly 160 solar-powered parking pay stations so motorists can pay to park by entering their license plate information in a machine designated for payments. Drivers also will be able to extend the time on the pay stations by sending a text message.

Under the new “Pay-by-Plate” option, set to take effect Jan. 2, motorists can enter their license plate numbers into the machine when they pay and avoid having to print out a ticket. Drivers currently have to print out tickets and place them on their dashboards to show they’ve paid to park.

As part of the new technology, drivers can elect to get a text message notifying them when their parking time is about to run out. If there’s still time available within the posted zone, the motorists can then buy more time by sending a text message.

The change is expected to reduce paper and save the city about \$25,000 annually, while also streamlining the process for those who are parking on Richmond public streets.

Drivers will continue to be able to pay by coins, bills or debit/credit cards.

The city plans to educate the public about the new system, “to help ensure a smooth transition to these new technology options.”



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The city of Richmond plans to use advanced technology beginning on Jan. 2 for parking, designed to let motorists prove payment for parking by entering the license numbers. They’ll also be able to receive text messages letting them know when their time is running out.