Texas Tech University Parking Services is completing installation for their new LPR (License Plate Recognition) program. The new system reads vehicle license plates to determine if the vehicle is allowed to park in certain lots on campus instead of relying on the plastic hangtags used in the past. Now those needing a parking permit can register and pay for their permit all online and will no longer need a plastic hangtag.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISSHh31flv4

As the second-largest contiguous university campus in the United States, Texas Tech U. has 30,000 students and covers more than 1,800 acres. More than a quarter of Parking Services’ $4 million annual revenue is derived from citations, and the university needed reliable technology and rapid information-sharing to ensure it could document each infraction - especially during home football games.

After extensive testing, TTU decided to equip enforcers with the Panasonic Toughbook U1, an extremely rugged ultra-portable computer with a 5.6” sunlight-viewable screen. With a six-foot drop rating and IP65-certified protection from dust and moisture, the U1 could be counted on to work in any conditions.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xesVw-9_Srs
License Plate Recognition Project

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Investment
• Equipment, software, vehicles—$250,000

Annual Cost Savings
• Permit order—$60,000
• Permit mailing—$7,000+
• Office personnel—$24,150
• Enforcement personnel—$96,602

Revenue Enhancement
• Increase enforcement coverage—$400,000
• Permit sales due to improved utilization efficiency—$?
• Cost containment as system grows—$24,150 per 2,000 parking spaces

Customer happiness—Priceless

TECHNICAL DETAILS

4 mobile units (Toyota Tacomas, Chevrolet Colorado, Chevrolet Tahoe)

7 fixed-mount units at campus entry stations

Utilizing Genetec’s AutoVu (Sharp Model XGA)
• Cameras: 1 LPR and 1 SD color overview
• High-definition progressive-scan LPR camera
• Pulsed high-intensity illumination source
• Automated exposure control
• Rugged, compact, environmentally sealed enclosure
• Low profile vehicle-mount for reduced light bar occlusion
• In-camera GPS option for GPS tagging of plate reads
• Reads plates of moving vehicles or parked vehicles (90 degrees to parallel)
• High-speed plate capture (speed differentials up to 140mph)
• High reading accuracy