



Media Release

For Immediate Release
June 20, 2006

Calgary Parking Authority to donate vehicle to Calgary Handi-Bus *GST reductions returned to Calgary community*

The Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) will donate a vehicle to Calgary Handi-Bus Association that will be funded by GST revenue reductions collected from parking meters and pay machines after July 1, 2006.

“As a gesture of goodwill to all Calgarians, the Calgary Parking Authority has ordered a new van for the Handi-Bus fleet,” said Dale Fraser, CPA General Manager. “A portion of this van will be purchased with the revenues collected from meters and machines after July 1st.”

Beginning July 1, the Calgary Parking Authority will reduce the rate of GST charged to monthly customers from 7 per cent to 6 per cent to coincide with changes to the GST made by the federal government.

However refunding small amounts of change from parking meter fees and pay machines in parkades and surface lots presents a unique challenge. The machines do not accept pennies, nickels or dimes and cannot be altered to provide a refund when the GST is reduced by one per cent on July 1. Revenues collected from on-street parking meters and pay machines in parkades and surface lots after July 1 will be used to purchase a Handi-Bus vehicle.

“We do not believe it’s a reasonable approach to keep our customer’s GST reduction,” said Fraser. “Although we are unable to reduce fees at parking meters and pay machines by one per cent beginning July 1st, we wish to return the money to our community.”

One Handi-Bus costs \$80,000, and it is estimated that approximately \$75,000 will be collected from meter and hourly revenues after July 1 through to the next anticipated rate adjustment. The CPA will donate the additional \$5,000 to cover the cost of the vehicle purchase. The Handi-Bus has been ordered and will be in service in October of this year where it will remain in operation for up to 10 years.

“We have been anticipating the GST reduction,” said Fraser. “And as a result, we will reduce rates for monthly customers to reflect the one per cent reduction and make a donation to Handi-Bus on behalf of our hourly customers.”

Funds earned by the CPA from parking enforcement, meters, parking lots and parkades go to the general revenues of the City of Calgary and are used for additional transportation infrastructure such as transit, roads and interchanges. On an annual basis, CPA contributes approximately \$13.9 million to the City of Calgary.

The Calgary Parking Authority provides quality municipal parking services throughout the downtown and inner city.

-30-

Media Contact:

Shelley Trigg, Public Affairs Coordinator
Calgary Parking Authority
620 – 9th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1L5
537-7099 540-6867 (cell)
email shelley.trigg@calgaryparking.com
www.calgaryparking.com