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Enhancement of Parking Management System in Cairo Using Smart Phones

A Thesis
Submitted to the Public Works Department
Faculty of Engineering
Ain Shams University
for the Fulfillment of the Requirements of M. Sc. Degree
In Civil Engineering (Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering)

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A Thesis For

The M. Sc. Degree in Civil Engineering (Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering)

by

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The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author in

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No part of the thesis has been submitted for a degree or a

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I

Abstract

Car parking is a central element in the urban traffic management system; finding a proper parking space is a big challenge for drivers in congested cities. Lack of parking spaces or the absence of information on available parking spaces leads to an increase in travel time, congestion, pollution, and also affect traffic safety. Therefore, solving this problem has a significant positive impact on both traffic performance and the economy. Being aware of when, where, and how many parking spaces are available is essential for travelers who make decisions about when and where to go. Accordingly, Parking Guidance and Information (PGI) systems are widely implemented around the world. This system provides dynamic information about the available parking spaces to the drivers within controlled areas. In such systems, data is commonly disseminated by Variable Message Signs (VMS) and/or through the internet, cellular phones. These systems significantly increase the probability of locating vacant parking spots, decrease frustration of those drivers unfamiliar with the city center, reduce queues in front of parking garages, decrease total vehicle-miles traveled, decrease average travel time, energy consumption, and air pollution.

Cairo, the capital of Egypt, is considered as one of the largest cities in the Middle East and the world. According to the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the population of Cairo in 2019 was 9,876,923 inhabitants, who were nearly 10.5% of the total population of Egypt. Also, based on Bulletin of licensed vehicles statistics published by CAPMAS in 2018, about 1,768,389 private

vehicles (37.5% of the total number of licensed private vehicles in Egypt) are running in Cairo roads (CAPMAS, 2018). Traffic congestion is a severe problem in Cairo with significant and adverse effects on both the quality of life and the economy. In addition to the time wasted standing still in traffic, congestion results in unnecessary fuel consumption, causes additional wear and tear on vehicles, increases harmful emissions lowering air quality, and makes Cairo an unattractive location for businesses and industry.

Based on a study by the World Bank group in 2014, the economic costs of congestion in Cairo are estimated at 3.6 % of Egypt's total Gross Domestic Product (World Bank Group, 2014). Also, this study showed that several factors contribute to congestion, one of these factors is the parking supply and behavior (limited parking capacity, limited information on car parks, illegal on-road parking, etc.). As a result, drivers spend time driving along the streets, searching for available parking spaces. This means that a significant number of vehicles are searching for parking spaces, which increases the number of cars on the streets unnecessarily.

In an attempt to mitigate the traffic congestion caused by Poor parking management, the PGI system was implemented in Cairo in June 2015 by the ministry of state for environmental affairs in cooperation with Cairo Governorate. The system provides the available real-time number of parking spaces for ten garages located at Cairo city center. This information is disseminated by using 14 VMS located at main routes leading to the city center. These garages are Tahrir, Opera, Bostan, Omar