

Brigade of Traffic Cops to Police Illegal Parking

April 19, 2012



Free for all: Moscow's traffic regulations state that drivers can park anywhere where there is no specific prohibition against it. **Sergei Porter**

Officers in 100 cars equipped with video surveillance systems will patrol Moscow identifying violators of parking rules, a Moscow official said Thursday.

Ten such cars are already in service in the Central District and find no more than 1,000 violations a day, said city transport head Maxim Liksutov, Interfax reported. By summer, the number of parking patrol cars will be increased to 100, he said.

Drivers will receive a notice regarding the need to pay a fine within three to five days of the violation.

Liksutov said the patrols would take place on the streets with the most significant traffic problems. He said the cars' routes would be published on the city transport department website.

Liksutov said last week that traffic police had handed out 12,000 tickets of 300 rubles each to illegally parked drivers since the start of the year, totaling 3.6 million rubles (\$120,000) in fines.

The city has announced plans to charge drivers who park in downtown Moscow 50 rubles an hour from Jan. 1 as part of an attempt to free up the capital's notoriously clogged streets.

Moscow is the fourth-most difficult city in the world in which to park, according to the IBM Global Parking Survey released in September.

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