



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
18 September 2026**

Time Is Running Out: Chattanooga Parking Authority Extends 10% Payment Plan Discount Through September 30

Food for Fines and Hardship relief close as scheduled on September 30; the 10% payment plan discount gets extra time before enforcement of new immobilization ordinance begins October 1

CHATTANOOGA, TN — The Chattanooga Parking Authority (CPA), owned and operated by the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA), announced it is extending the **10% payment plan discount** through **September 30**, giving drivers additional time to enroll before new enforcement measures take effect. The **Food for Fines** program and the **Hardship** program remain on track to close as originally scheduled on September 30.

Three Ways to Get Relief Before the Deadline

Food for Fines Drivers can turn a donation to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank into credit toward their outstanding parking citations. For every \$1 donated, the CPA will apply \$2 in credit up to 25% of the total tickets owed. Monetary donations are the only accepted form of payment under this program.

Hardship Program Drivers facing financial hardship may qualify for a 90% discount on their total balance owed, with 12 months to pay it off. Applicants automatically qualify by providing proof of enrollment in a qualifying assistance program (such as Section 8 housing, SSI/SSDI, Medicaid/Medicare, or SNAP/WIC), by demonstrating household income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, or by documenting a qualifying financial hardship such as recent job loss, housing instability, significant medical expenses, or the loss of an immediate family member.

10% Payment Plan Discount Drivers who already missed the earlier discount windows in the broader Amnesty Period (which began June 1) now have extra time: a 10% discount is available through September 30 for those who enroll in a structured six-month payment plan.

Note: These three programs cannot be combined with one another, so drivers should review which option best fits their situation.



Why Now Matters

The CPA is encouraging every driver with delinquent citations to act before the amnesty window closes. **Starting October 1, the CPA will begin enforcing a newly adopted City ordinance (Ordinance No. 14347) that authorizes the immobilization of chronic abusers**, vehicles with a record of three or more delinquent parking citations outstanding for more than 60 days that are not under appeal.

Immobilization is intended as a last resort, reserved for repeat, long-outstanding violations, not a first response to a missed payment. The ordinance also builds in consumer protections and relief options, including clear signage requirements, a 24/7 support line for assistance, and a conditional release and payment plan for drivers who become immobilized, allowing release upon a partial payment and a manageable installment plan.

"Extending these relief options is about being a good partner to the community we serve," said Scott Wilson, CARTA Chief of Staff. "We know unexpected challenges come up, and we'd rather work with drivers to help them get back on track than see them fall further behind. Extending the amnesty window through September 30 gives people the time and the options they need to resolve their citations before enforcement changes take effect."

Growing the Chattanooga Parking Network

The relief programs announced today are part of a broader expansion of the Chattanooga Parking Network. The CPA recently added six new privately-operated, rate-protected lots to the network, growing the availability of off-street parking for drivers across the city. Those additions are just the beginning: the CPA is in discussions with private lot owners that could bring as many as 40 more rate-protected lots into the network in the future, further expanding convenient, compliant parking options for the Chattanooga community.

Parking Fee & Fine Limits

For participating rate-protected parking lots and garages:

- Maximum hourly rate: \$3.00/hour
- Maximum daily rate: \$18.00/day
- Parking tickets capped at: daily maximum + \$25
- Late fees capped at: \$20 after 30 days
- Maximum total with late fees: \$63
- Minimum one-hour parking option required



How to Enroll

Drivers who want to enroll in the 10% payment plan discount, the Food for Fines program, or apply for Hardship relief before September 30 should contact the Chattanooga Parking Authority at (423) 648-4031 or visit the website www.chattanoogaparking.org.

ABOUT THE CHATTANOOGA PARKING AUTHORITY

The Chattanooga Parking Authority (CPA) is the parking enforcement and management affiliate of the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA). CPA administers on-street and off-street parking programs, licensing private parking operators, and consumer protection enforcement under the authority granted by the City of Chattanooga.

About CARTA

The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) is Chattanooga's public transit system, founded in 1973. As the driving force behind the city's mobility, CARTA connects communities and empowers lives through a comprehensive range of services, including fixed-route buses, paratransit services (Care-a-van), microtransit (CARTA Go), the iconic Lookout Mountain Incline Railway, and the free downtown electric shuttle system. CARTA is also responsible for managing the Chattanooga Parking Authority, overseeing a network of garages, parking lots, and on-street parking. By shaping the future of mobility, CARTA fuels Chattanooga's economic growth, enhances accessibility, and drives the city's progress forward.