

Case Study

Parking & Access Control

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

SmartPass® RFID-Based Parking System
Provides 15 Years of Efficient Access

Controlled by the Environment

In 1994 Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSU) was using magnetic swipe cards to control parking access for LSU's doctors, professors, university staff members, and students.

The swipe machines were susceptible to dirt and grime, making it difficult to read cards. The magnetic stripe on the cards constantly wore thin and became unreadable. Ticket machines for guests, patients, and visitors were located close to the swipe machines, confusing visitors. When they inserted tickets into the card swipe machines, the readers would jam and deny further gate access. These and other issues created serious traffic flow problems and increased costs.

LSU needed a durable, robust application that could function with their existing access control system while streamlining traffic and throughput. TransCore's integrated radio frequency identification (RFID) tag and reader system was installed as a test in mid-July 1994 during the completion of a new parking garage in downtown New Orleans.

Results of the trial exceeded expectation. LSU's 7-story parking facility was cleared of cars four times faster at day's end than the previous swipe card system. LSU was confident it had found the right parking solution and began its long-standing relationship with TransCore.

Through the Years

Since the initial TransCore installation in December 1994, the LSU Health Sciences Center parking system has grown from



At A Glance

Goal:

Deploy a robust, efficient parking and access control system for Louisiana State University's Health Sciences Center in the heart of parking-challenged New Orleans

Scope:

Parking for thousands of students, faculty, and staff spread out over 23 lots and 3 garages.

Solution:

Install TransCore's Smart-Pass radio frequency identification-based automatic vehicle identification (AVI) parking system

Results:

- ▶ 4X improvement in throughput
- ▶ Enforceable access control to restricted facilities
- ▶ Lowered maintenance costs



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28 readers and 5,000 tags at 11 parking lots and garages to 45 readers and 7,000 tags in 23 lots and 3 garages. For nearly 15 years, TransCore's AVI technology and open architecture have grown with LSU's existing Wiegandinterfaced back-office software. TransCore continues to be LSU's parking solution of choice.

Currently 1,200 vehicles drive through the automated entrance daily at the main garage. During peak hours alone, the average throughput is 300 vehicles per entry and exit point. The TransCore system continues to minimize waiting times for drivers, reduce engine idling, and provide advanced access control for LSU. Parking patrons benefit from a convenience and simplicity that wasn't previously available.

"TransCore's SmartPass readers have proven to be durable," said Antonio Casas, director of parking services. "They have not been affected by the heat, humidity, and intense lightning we get in New Orleans," Casas continued. "They even survived Hurricane Katrina. The readers were installed higher than flood level and survived the high winds and rains. We were able to reuse almost all of our SmartPass readers," he said.

The Benefits of the System Continue

Convenience. Entry and exit points are hands free. Students, faculty and staff don't have to wait for other drivers to fumble for tickets or cash, or to insert a card, all of which cause delays.

Durability. System breakdowns and the accompanying costly repairs were nearly eliminated. Additionally, the durable readers were unaffected by the heat, humidity and dust common to New Orleans. The system even withstood the extreme conditions caused by

Hurricane Katrina.

Security. TransCore customized the anti-passback feature for LSU, so that a tag is required to exit the facility before it can enter again. This makes it impossible for a driver to activate the gate and then pass the tag back to an acquaintance for entry with the same tag.

Control. Since implementing AVI, LSU facilities are able to control access automatically. For example, facilities can deny access to those who may have an outstanding ticket, unpaid fees, a cancelled tag, or lack permission to use particular lots.

"The TransCore system is a tremendous asset to our parking system. Our parkers could never go back to a card swipe system. They are too spoiled by the convenience of AVI."

Antonio Casas
Director of Parking Services
LSU Health Sciences Center

Complete University Parking Solutions

In addition to the SmartPass system implemented at LSU, TransCore offers innovative RFID solutions for university parking applications, including the eGo® family of products. The eGo windshield sticker tag and reader system regulates vehicle entry to designated lots, using a single-chip technology that costs less than half that of a conventional RFID tag. These cost-effective, versatile tags can be made removable for parkers with multiple vehicles. They can also be color-coded and custom-printed with university graphics, to aid in visual identification, enforce parking access, enhance security, and increase throughput.

TransCore Channel Partner JL Roberts, Inc. provides ongoing sales, support, and maintenance to the LSU Health Sciences Center.

For more information:
Call 800.923.4824
transcore.com/rfid

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