

Commuter students and staff at USC struggle to find parking during peak weekday hours (8:30 AM–3:00 PM). Lots fill unpredictably, real-time availability isn't visible, and permit/zone rules vary across garages and surface lots. Many campus meters only allow whole-hour purchases (1–2–3 hours), so a 75-minute class forces students to pay for two hours or risk a ticket, increasing costs and making short visits inefficient. The result is wasted time circling, late arrivals, higher fuel use, and ticket anxiety—pushing many to arrive 30–45 minutes early, park far away and walk, or skip events. The primary users are commuters who drive to campus multiple days per week; current workarounds (guessing lot capacity, texting friends, checking social media) are unreliable. We need a simple, mobile-friendly way to see up-to-date lot occupancy and permitted zones before leaving home, with clear meter time/price recommendations based on class length, while respecting privacy and campus policies.