

# Case Study

## Parking & Access Control

### University of Arizona

#### U of A Increases Security and Efficiency with TransCore's RFID-Based Access Control

University of Arizona, home of the Arizona Wildcats, is a sprawling university in the heart of Tucson, Arizona, a growing metropolis of 1,000,000. The University is home to more than 37,000 students and 14,000 employees – and there are only 19,000 parking spots shared between faculty, staff, and students.

### Herding Cats

From rideshares, carpools, and vanpools to Sun Tran (Tucson's public transit), to the campus' Cat Tran Shuttle, and park and ride lots, managing the transportation demands of this robust campus is a challenging job.

Mike Delahanty, operations manager for the University's Parking and Transportation Services, is always interested in efficiency. With more than a hand on the pulse of the campus, he knew that he needed to make some changes to improve throughput in his largest garage. Access control at this garage was handled with a swipe system and only had one point of exit. During peak hours, traffic would stack up on the ramps.

Additionally, there were safety concerns. A conventional swipe card takes, on average, more than 34% longer than RFID-based AVI technology. It requires the driver to come to a complete stop, roll down their window, swipe their card, and roll the window back up. The time spent entering the parking facility leaves the driver vulnerable.

*"Once our parkers have experienced the convenience of TransCore AVI, they never want to give up their tags."*

**Mike Delahanty**  
Operation Manager  
University of Arizona



Courtesy of Wikipedia

### At A Glance

#### Goal:

Improve security and reduce congestion at large parking facility

#### Scope:

The University of Arizona has 184 buildings and 19,000 parking spots over 387 acres serving more than 51,000 students and staff.

#### Solution:

Implementation of TransCore's RFID-based automatic vehicle identification (AVI) parking and access control system

#### Results:

Throughput nearly tripled, congestion was significantly reduced, and safety was increased.



Courtesy of Wikipedia

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## Finding A Solution

Mike Delahanty did his research. He used the Internet and parking industry magazines to get background information on the different technologies and vendors. He met people at industry trade shows and settled on AVI as the technology after considering solutions like barcodes.

In 2002 TransCore and another RFID vender were brought in for a month-long trial. At the end of the month it was a simple decision: TransCore outperformed the competition and won the project hands down. In fact, the trial was so successful that the people who participated protested when they had to give their tags back!

## Technology Makes Wildcats Purr

While Delahanty knew that he'd enjoy improved throughput, he didn't anticipate the extent that automatic vehicle technology would impact his organization.

- ▶ Throughput actually tripled
- ▶ Anti-passback technology significantly reduced fraudulent tag usage – students can't use their tags to let multiple vehicles into a garage.
- ▶ Customer complaints about the exhaust from idling vehicles were eliminated.
- ▶ Data collected from TransCore readers seamlessly integrates into T2's automated back office to make account management simple.
- ▶ The readers are incredibly durable, essentially eliminating costly maintenance.

Hard case tags are turned in when the parker leaves the University or decides on alternate transportation solutions. Reprogramming them is simple and they can be used again for several years.

Since the TransCore parking system of readers and tags was installed in 2002, the system has grown to 48 lanes and more than 30,000 hard case tags have been deployed. Every March, tag holders are given the chance to renew. If the tag isn't renewed, it becomes available during April's open registration. Applying for the tags is done on a first come, first serve basis – and every year the tags are sold out.

Almost a decade later, Mike Delahanty knows he made the right decision to choose TransCore's products. "Parkers love the AVI solution we offer. It makes parking easier and safer. We've enjoyed working with TransCore through the years and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend TransCore's parking system to anyone who wants to improve the efficiency of their parking solution and make their customers happy."



*"Throughput tripled and complaints about emissions in the garages were eliminated. TransCore solved our biggest parking problems!"*

**Mike Delahanty**  
Operation Manager  
University of Arizona

**For more information:**  
Call 800.923.4824  
[transcore.com/rfid](http://transcore.com/rfid)

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TC-2212 – 7/15

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