Lots 6, 7, 17, 20, 23, 27, 29, 36, 38, 46, 76, 80, 83 and 95

RFID Systems
Automated Parking Ramp Access

Your parking facility access method uses a low-cost passive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag embedded in your parking permit. All Lot 6, 7, 17, 20, 23, 27, 29, 36, 38, 46, 76, 80, 83 and 95 annual parking permits are currently enabled with RFID. This GEN2 RFID system design for parking was developed in partnership with the UW College of Engineering, RFID Laboratory.

A benefit of RFID is that drivers do not have to roll down their window to “swipe” a permit in a magnetic strip reader. As annual permit customers approach the lot entrance and exit gates, an RFID reader will detect the RFID tag on their permit and the gate will open if the permit is valid.

How it works
- Place your RFID-enabled permit on the rearview mirror.
- Slowly drive up to the entrance gate to the lot.
- Avoid “tailgating” the vehicle in front of you in case that vehicle stops suddenly.
- The RFID reader detects your RFID tag and then the gate opens if your permit is valid.
- The RFID tag now controls entry AND EXIT to the ramp.

What if it does not work?
This usually means that the RFID reader was not able to read the RFID tag on your approach.
- If the gate doesn’t open automatically, then stop your vehicle near the barcode reader (see the BLUE boxes in the above drawing). Remove the hangtag from the rearview mirror and present the permit to the RFID reader (RED boxes in the above drawing). Be careful, do not to cover the RFID tag with your finger as this will prevent the tag from being read properly.
- If the gate still doesn’t open, hold your permit’s barcode under the barcode reader.
- If your permit’s barcode does not enable the gate, press the intercom button for assistance.
- Please report any failure or unexpected operation by sending an email: transportation@fpm.wisc.edu
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is Transportation Services using RFID enabled parking permits?
   New RFID tags are similar in cost to magnetic strips and RFID permits are more convenient. RFID readers are faster, require less maintenance, and installation is more flexible. In addition, RFID readers may also replace pay-by-phone for Flex Parking Participants. RFID tags help control the cost of campus parking.

2. Will RFID parking cost more for permit holders?
   No, RFID helps control costs. RFID permits currently cost more than magnetic strip permits, but the cost of RFID tags is forecast to be much less in the near future. RFID readers also cost less to maintain, reduce vehicle idling, save fuel, and reduce air pollution.

3. Are other campus parking ramps RFID enabled?
   For the 2012-13 parking year, Lots 6, 7, 17, 20, 23, 27, 29, 36, 46, 76, 80, 83, and 95 are RFID enabled. All gated campus parking facilities will use RFID by this time next year.

4. I have a Business Alternate permit in an RFID parking lot. How will I use my permit in an RFID-enabled lot?
   For the 2012-13 parking year, if your permit doesn’t have an RFID tag, you will need to swipe your permit’s barcode under the barcode reader. In the future, your permit may include an RFID tag for RFID-enabled parking lots.

5. What information is stored on the RFID tag or recorded by the system?
   The only information stored on the RFID tag is a 12 digit permit code, the same code as is printed on the permit and encoded in the barcode. The only information recorded by the RFID reader is the 12 character permit identification code, the date, and the time the tag was read by the RFID reader. This is the same information as recorded with magnetic strip permits and by barcode readers. There is no personal information on our RFID tags, magnetic strips, or barcodes.

6. How do you ensure that gate access data is securely stored?
   Gate records are stored and managed by Transportation Services using approved system security. Information linking a person to a permit identification code is in a secure database and is accessible only by authorized persons with appropriate security clearance.

7. Who can see the data?
   Only authorized University employees in the performance of their official responsibilities can review gate access records.

8. Is there any possibility of fraud or misuse?
   RFID tags and readers help prevent altered and/or counterfeit permits and therefore help prevent permit fraud and misuse. Only the unique permit identification code is stored on the RFID tag so even if an unauthorized person has an RFID tag reader, the only information available to read is the 12 character permit identification code (which is also printed on the face of the permit).

9. What do I do if my RFID-enabled permit is not working?
   Try presenting the permit to the reader without touching the embedded RFID tag with your fingers. If that is not successful, then scan your permit’s barcode. Send an email to Gordon Graham, RFID Program Project Manager so the problem can be researched and solved: ggraham@fpm.wisc.edu.