This notice is in response to the Ph.D. student petition to USC Transportation, in which that community appeals the decision to reinstate parking charges effective July 1, 2021.

USC Transportation has been proud to participate in the overall USC Administration response to the COVID pandemic by offering free parking to all USC faculty, staff, and students for over fifteen months (March 13, 2020 – June 30, 2021).

As USC gradually emerges from the pandemic and operations ramp back up, the decision was made to reinstate parking charges beginning July 1, 2021. This action is required to support the ongoing and rapidly expanding operations of our department as we help the university return to normal.

Understanding the challenges that our students, staff and faculty continue to face, we are not reinstating these charges in a vacuum. In response to a transit survey which we distributed this Spring, we froze permit prices at their 2019 rates and are in the process of expanding our free bus service to near pre-COVID levels. Although parking charges will resume in July, please note you do not <u>have</u> to buy a permit on July 1 – you can always purchase a permit when you return to campus according to your unit plans.

As an alternate to parking, we are pleased to announce that the summer Graduate U-Pass program will be available starting Monday, June 21. This program has a Metro-determined end date of August 15, 2021, and the cost for the seven-week program is $32. We are finalizing the most efficient way to bring this program online as quickly as possible, and will post an update with detailed instructions on our [website](#) no later than 5:00pm this Friday, June 18. Please note: Parking remains free of charge at **all** campus locations through June 30.

We appreciate the university community's understanding of our necessary decision to reinstate parking charges, and we are happy to be able to provide the Summer Graduate U-Pass program as a cost-effective transit alternative.