Sentry™ is more than just a parking meter, it’s an intelligent, self-contained computer that recognizes if a vehicle has a valid permit or day pass, accepts on-the-spot credit card payment for parking from visitors and guests, provides immediate contact with the Tufts Department of Public and Environmental Safety (DEPS) through Voice over IP, and has a full color display that can broadcast emergency alerts, Tufts related messages or other information when necessary.

In the Boston Ave. Garage, LPR (License Plate Recognition) technology reads the license plate of an arriving vehicle and automatically lifts the entry gate. Visitors pay for parking by credit card at the payment kiosks located on the 3rd, 5th and 7th floor. When a vehicle arrives at the exit gate, the LPR camera checks the parking database to determine if the vehicle has paid for parking. For vehicles with valid parking permits, day passes and those whose owners have paid for parking in the garage, the exit gate automatically opens to let them out. Vehicle owners who arrive at the exit gate without prepaying pay by credit card at the exit.

The Cousens Lot remains gateless. LPR technology reads the license plate and record the time when a vehicle arrives and leaves. Payment kiosks are conveniently located at pedestrian exits and accept payment by credit cards. Because the Sentry™ works with license plates, no ticket or pass needs to be placed on the vehicle. If a vehicles exits without payment, a citation is mailed to the vehicle owner’s home.

Visitors and guests can also pay for parking in the Boston Ave Garage and the Cousens Lot using a smart phone app.

8 inch high-def, color touch screens, speakers and microphone connect those at the kiosks with DPES, provide emergency information and more.

Tufts and Sentry™ parking meters: convenience and common sense