Social Parking - 2c: Design Research Check-In
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Participant Background
We interviewed a junior student majoring in Aeronautics and Astronautics who drives to school every day. We found him to be a valuable interviewee as over the past few years, he has tried several parking methods when driving to school and has had experience about parking both in the school parking lots and also off campus street parking.

What We Learned
In times where he is in need of long-term parking, he finds it is better to pay for a campus parking pass which costs between $150 - $200 for 2 to 3 months. This ensures him a spot though it is not ideal since most commuters are assigned to lot E-18 next to the IMA which is far away from classes located across campus. He also mentioned that when he wanted to find a spot closer to the bridge; he had to arrive to campus early, otherwise he is forced to park even farther away.
In other cases, our interviewee chooses to pay for daily parking (which is usually on campus). A strategy he used to get cheaper rates was asking his friends to accompany him so he travels with a lower carpool rate. This seems to be our interviewee's primary solution for daily parking. However, it isn't always an effective strategy because his friends are mostly busy and street parking locations are full causing him to pay the full amount to park on campus at a farther location.

Tasks, Problems, Opportunities Uncovered
As our interviewee explained different strategies, it was clear that cost and distance are two major factors for finding parking. If this becomes a common concern for future interviewees as well, it may be worth making these two factors the focus of the project. He also mentioned that he sometimes rents parking spots from his friends which can add to the social aspect of the application where in addition to campus and street parking, we can also include locations available by people who have spots and are willing to rent them to others.

Difficulties Establishing Rapport or Gathering Information
The most challenging part was to find an interviewee that could give us useful information in a short amount of time.

Plans for Remaining Interviewees
We plan to conduct our interviews similar to this one by beginning the conversation with the scripted questions and then adding intermediate questions, if necessary, to gather as much information as possible.

Changes For Future
Introduce and give some more background to what we plan to do in our project. We can then give the interviewee some time to ask for clarification on what the application's purpose is before we delve into questions specific to what the application should include. We can also take opinions from other interviewees towards different perspectives that we uncover from the on-going interviews for example considering timed renting of personal parking spaces was an idea the came about while conversing with the above interviewee.