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To Drive Revenue, Cities Turn to Tech to Fix Their Parking Problems.

Parking brings in $3 billion a year for state and local governments. That's why they are using new technologies to help push parking reforms aimed at streamlining enforcement and increasing revenues and environmental friendliness.

City parking is a pain for drivers and cities both. Drivers searching for the most convenient spot for the least cost add to congestion and greenhouse gas emissions when they repeatedly circle the block looking for an open space. Sometimes they double park, overstay a spot's time limit or park in bus lanes or safety zones. On the city side, enforcement requires staff for ticketing or arranging for towing or installation of a boot. Equipment and parking lots must be maintained, safety ensured, and payments easy to submit and collect.

But for all the headaches parking causes, it can be a major source of revenue for cities. State and local governments raised $3 billion from parking charges in 2020, according to Census Bureau data. That's why many are turning to technology to help drive parking reforms aimed at streamlining enforcement and increasing revenues and environmental friendliness.

Los Angeles, for instance, is preparing to test artificial intelligence to crack down on drivers who park in bus-only and priority lanes.

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Route Fifty

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