

Parking

Definitions

The act of manoeuvring a vehicle into a location where it can be left unoccupied for more than a brief time.

History

The first public parking garage for motor vehicles opened in Boston, May 24, 1898. The world's first installed parking meter was in Oklahoma City, on July 16, 1935. Disc parking was first introduced in Paris in 1957. The first pay-and-display machines were installed in 1968 in the UK, to control residents' parking in London.

Context and Policies

Parking is an essential component of the transportation system. Vehicles must park at every destination. A typical automobile is parked 23 hours each day, and uses several parking spaces each week. The location, supply, and pricing of parking influence development opportunities, property values, and urban form. It plays a key role in land use accessibility and the economy of major centres. Parking availability is of significant importance to travellers making travel decisions. It affects such diverse travel decisions as mode choice, trip destination choice, and trip frequency.

Issues

Conventional parking planning tends to focus primarily on quantity. It assumes that, when it comes to parking, more is always better, and there can never be too much. This type of planning relies primarily on generous minimum parking requirements and public subsidies to provide abundant parking supply. The real problem is not parking supply; it is how to manage parking.

Actions

Parking management is designed to make more efficient use of parking resources by sharing, regulating and pricing; using off-site parking facilities; implementing overflow-parking plans; improving user information; and improving walking and cycling conditions. It also involves reducing parking demand by encouraging use of alternative modes of transportation and improving enforcement and control of parking regulations.

Parking management focuses equally on quality, such as the ease of obtaining parking information, the convenience and safety of walking from a parking space to destinations, and the attractiveness and security of parking facilities. A cost-effective, integrated parking management program can often reduce parking requirements by 20-40%, while improving user convenience and helping to achieve other planning objectives, such as supporting more compact development, encouraging use of alternative modes of transportation, and increasing development affordability.



Photo credits: No Escape Parking at Old Memorial Stadium © Alex Maclean

Resources

Documents

- **Evaluating parking requirements in South Africa with specific reference to regional shopping centres**, 2006, G. Hitge and L. de Vroodt, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- **Is Curitiba, Brazil the Model City for Parking Management?**, 2008, Christopher Ziemann, DC Department of Transportation, (USA)
- **Parking Management, Transportation Tech Sheet**, 2001, Reed Everett-Lee, Congress for New Urbanism, San Francisco, CA (USA)
- **Parking Management: Strategies, Evaluation and Planning**, 2008, Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute (Canada)
- **Parking, People, and Cities**, 2005, Michael Manville and Donald Shoup, American Society of Civil Engineers (USA)
- **Traveler Response to Transportation System Changes**, 2003, J. Richard Kuzmyak, Rachel Weinberger, Richard H. Pratt and Herbert S. Levinson, Transportation Research Board (USA)

Presentations

- **Congestion pricing and parking policy in the Netherlands**, 2009, Karel Martens, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (Netherlands)
- **Intelligent Parking Management**, 2009, Jay Primus, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority, TRB --Workshop 167 (USA)
- **The High Cost of Free Parking**, 2003, Donald Shoup, TRB International Symposium on Road Pricing, Key Biscayne, FL (USA)

Recommended Links

- **China Parking** (China)
- **International Parking Institute** (USA)
- **Parking Network** (The Netherlands)
- **Parking Solutions** (Canada)
- **Parking Today** (USA)

For further information

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