OSU Parking Utilization Study
Fall Term 2008

Facilities Services
Campus Planning
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Purpose

The purpose of this study is for the University to analyze parking utilization on the OSU main campus (see map Attachment A - Parking Survey Overview Map). The main campus study is used to determine and analyze existing supply and demand as well as identifying parking trends on campus. OSU conducts a parking inventory during the fall term when enrollment is highest. As stated in the Campus Master Plan (CMP), vehicular parking improvements will be implemented if the campus occupancy rate reaches 90% (if utilization is 85% or greater planning for parking improvements will be initiated).

Study Findings

Results of this study indicate that parking utilization on campus for 2008 is at 72%. Utilization has decreased by 3% over 2007 while the population of the campus increased by 2.5% (606 people) while parking capacity on campus remained relatively unchanged. Factors that may have influenced the change in utilization may include the higher cost of gasoline, the economy, elimination of free parking (verify), changes in CTS bus routes (driving through campus), better OSU shuttle routes and connections and increased environmental awareness.

OSU permits issued by Transit and Parking Services (TAPS) decreased by 719 (a permit decrease of 518 student (15%) & 201 Faculty/Staff (7%)) or 11% in total. The decrease in demand of parking permits may be attributable to reasons previously stated for the decrease in utilization. Compared with 2007 permits issued in conjunction with parking utilization show that the same percent of the student population (14%) is parking on campus while purchasing fewer permits. Faculty/Staff show to park less on campus (from 40% to 37%) in concert with less permits purchased.

Methodologies

The study was conducted during the fall academic term during the 4th week of the school (21-22 October, 2008, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM). This time period is when the campus is considered at peak occupancy and is typical for reporting statistics for 4-year colleges and universities. The study was conducted over a 2-day period on a typical laboratory day (Tuesday) and typical lecture day (Wednesday) representing peak days within the week.
OSU Main Campus Parking Survey

An inventory of vacant parking spaces was completed one time on each day of the survey. The campus survey was completed by Campus Planning and TAPS.

Campus Population & Parking Capacity

To effectively evaluate how OSU is planning existing and future parking needs, Figure 1 (OSU Population Breakdown) below shows the campus population trend. Over the past five years the total campus population has increased approximately 4.7% with the largest percent increase being between 2007 and 2008 which had an increase of 2.5%.

![Figure 1: OSU Population Breakdown](image)

Campus parking consists of a parking structure and a variety of parking lots: permit-regulated, metered, and open parking. On-street parking is available on 11th, 13th, 14th and 15th streets campus way west of 30th street and other roadways adjacent to the campus. The lots and on-street spaces on campus are mainly controlled by the OSU permit system except for one “open” parking lot that is free for anyone to use. The “open” lot is located on Campus way west of the Motor Pool parking lot. Parking lots are serviced by a free shuttle service which
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consists of two buses that continually run on schedule throughout campus from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m and connect to the Corvallis Transit bus system.

OSU’s parking management program employs a permit system for most of the parking lots, a pay-lot system for short-term metered parking, a campus shuttle and enforced parking. Permits are sold by use type: faculty/staff, student, emeritus, motorcycle, and visitor. Parking spaces within lots are assigned according to their permitted use. Those with faculty/staff permits are also allowed to use the student lots. Special permits are available for service vehicles and visitors on campus.

Figure 2 (OSU Parking Capacity and Enrollment Trend) shows the breakdown of assigned parking spaces relative to campus population. Overall parking spaces remain approximately the same at just over 8,000 spaces from 2007 to 2008. The slight change of 49 spaces was due to reconfiguration of parking lots and some spaces being eliminated due to safety concerns. The relative distribution of parking capacity by campus sector can be viewed in Attachment B - Parking Capacity by Campus Sector Map.

Parking utilization is calculated as the ratio of occupied spaces to the total number of spaces. A 90% utilization rate requires the University to construct new parking facilities. At this level of utilization drivers may spend considerable time circulating campus in search of a parking space. Based on the survey, OSU’s parking is at a utilization rate of 72% during peak hours. A detailed map

Figure 2: OSU Parking Capacity and Enrollment Trend

Parking Utilization
showing parking lot utilization by parking lot and campus sector is included as Attachment C - Campus Survey Results Map.

Parking Demand (Permit Sales)

Parking demand is defined by parking lot utilization or by the sale of campus parking permits (from September 1st through October 8th). OSU uses parking demand ratios to project future demand in conjunction with parking lot utilization. The parking demand ratio is calculated by either the ratio of permitted vehicles to...
The data in Table 2 indicates that 19% (14% Student, 37% Faculty/Staff) of the campus population parks on campus during peak time. During this same time 83% (98% Student, 65% Faculty/Staff) of those purchasing permits use them. Compared to 2007, the number of permits has decreased by 719 permits (decrease of 518 Students & 201 Faculty/Staff) or 11%. The apparent decrease in demand of parking permits may be due to reasons similar to the decrease in on campus parking utilization (mainly gasoline prices, the economy & environmental awareness).

**Parking Utilization by Sector**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Parking Capacity (vehicles)</th>
<th>Parking Occupancy (vehicles)</th>
<th>% Occupancy</th>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>J</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>8,086</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The OSU Campus Master Plan divides the campus into nine sectors, each with its own development allocation, including parking. Table 3 (Summary of Parking Usage on Campus by Sector) shows parking demand and utilization by campus sector. Attachment B - Parking Capacity by Campus Sector Map shows a map depicting relative sector parking capacity by sector. Attachment C - Campus Survey Results Map shows a map depicting sector utilization as well as individual parking lot utilization.

On a sector by sector basis (excluding sector J that has no parking) Sectors F and H maintain less than 50% of utilized capacity. Sector F’s lack of utilization (32%) is mainly attributable to the Reser Stadium parking lot being underutilized (14% on average). Sector H shows underutilization (2%) less than 50% but
does not hold a significant amount of parking capacity (46 spaces), is only used for athletic events and is not patrolled by TAPS. Sector G’s lack of utilization (66%) is mainly attributable to the underutilization of the parking structure (59% on average).

**Additional Information/Contacts**

For additional information and or questions concerning this report contact the following.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A - Parking Survey Overview Map
- Attachment B - Parking Capacity by Campus Sector Map
- Attachment C - Campus Survey Results Map
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Campus Survey Results

*Sector shading indicates % utilization

Attachment C