

# Underground Parking

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people in and around the Cascade Campus community who have been working tirelessly volunteering time to help the campus plan for the future," said Algie Gatewood, Cascade Campus president. "The campus has seen unprecedented growth over the past several years. Today, we serve more than 22,000 students per year, which translates to about 27 percent more students than when the 2008 bond measure was approved by voters.

"These are exciting times for the Cascade Campus community, and there will be many more discussions and opportunities to get involved as we design and build the Cascade Campus of the future," Gatewood added.

The Cascade Campus bond plans included more classrooms and labs, updated equipment and technology infrastructure, expanded career programming, a new child development center, improvements to the library and student services, and a parking solution to address parking demand and reduce impacts to the surrounding community.

"The addition of classroom space in the new academic building, meeting space in the new student center, and improvements in the library, will allow us to better serve more students as well as community members," said Scott Huff, Cascade Campus dean of Instruction. "In particular, added classrooms will allow us to handle the greatly increased student numbers seen over the last several years as more students turn to PCC for their educational needs."

With that growth, comes the issue of increased traffic to the campus and a condition to adding new square footage to the campus is to also provide adequate parking.

After months of analysis, discussion and debate, the college has decided to go forward with the plan to build an underground parking garage to accompany construction of the two new campus buildings. The underground lot will provide 220 parking spaces – a net increase of about 75 spaces.

Gatewood said in selecting the underground parking option over an above-ground option, the campus weighed cost; benefit to the community; safety, security and operational issues; efficient use of land; opportunities for future campus development; and impacts to the adjacent North Killingsworth business corridor. Building below ground parking between the two new buildings helps the campus preserve a full city block for future development and maintain the character and aesthetics of the neighborhood, he added.

The parking decision fits well into the college's current Transportation Demand Management

initiative, where PCC and community representatives are working with several expert transportation consultants to help identify a wide range of alternative transportation strategies for the entire PCC district. These include a reduction in the reliance on single-occupant cars, help meet the goals of the college's Climate Action Plan and maintain access to education.

Gatewood said the future is bright on this front because Cascade has more people choosing alternative modes of transportation – biking, walking, ridesharing, public transit and PCC shuttles – than any other PCC facility (for instance, ten percent of campus commuters are bike riders, highest at any location).

"Our location makes us an ideal candidate for alternative transportation," Gatewood said. "Both the parking options that were under final consideration would have required advancing incentives to use alternate transportation modes, such as bike amenities, transit subsidies, pricing and operational adjustments and more. I believe we are up to the challenge."

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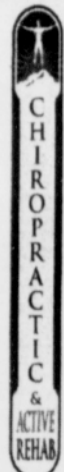


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