



PARK-AND-RIDE LOTS



More Information: tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion

Description

Park-and-ride lots allow commuters to park their individual vehicles and then take group/shared transit (rail, bus, van-pool, or carpool). Park-and-ride lots are strategically placed outside the ring of congestion on major roads.

Park-and-ride lots offer transit services that could not otherwise be cost-effectively provided. Services offered include local fixed-route buses, express buses, bus rapid transit, and rail.

Lots vary in size from 200 to over 1,000 spaces. Transit fares from park-and-ride lots are typically higher than basic local fares, and parking may be free or for a small fee. Typical park-and-ride lot amenities include covered or enclosed waiting areas, benches, and sometimes vending machines and restrooms.

Target Market

Park-and-ride lots target commuters from suburban areas—including state employees, students, and employees working in the central city—who use freeways to travel to and from work during the week.

How Will This Help?

- **Reduces the number of single-occupancy vehicles** on major freeways and highways.
- **Provides a travel alternative** to the personal automobile.
- **Increases the size of the collection area** for the transit stop, bringing in more customers than traditional fixed-route transit and making transit more effective.
- **Improves time management.** Passengers can work on the bus or train through Wi-Fi instead of driving.

Implementation Issues

Park-and-ride lots must be strategically located in order to draw customers. Ease of access plays a big role in whether customers use the services offered at the lot. Customers use different modes (bicycles, cars, buses, etc.) to arrive at park-and-ride lots, so planners must create safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, automobile drivers, and transit users transferring in from available neighborhood feeder services.

COST



TIME



IMPACT



WHO



TRANSIT AGENCY

HURDLES



EASE OF ACCESS

SUCCESS STORIES



Fuqua Park-and-Ride Lot in Houston, Texas.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County offers **29 park-and-ride lots** with direct access to high-occupancy vehicle lanes in major corridors, giving buses priority.

Surveys conducted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute indicate that:

38–46%
of park-and-ride bus passengers formerly drove alone.

