

TRANSIT & TOD

Today more development and facilities are focused around mass transit where there is access to work, housing, and entertainment venues. Many of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) locations offer vibrant activities, proximity to walkable amenities, and create attractive, and active communities where people can live, work, and play. While the successful development of TOD helps decrease traffic, the associated environmental impacts, and the dependence motor vehicles, providing the "right" amount of safe, user friendly and convenient parking is vital to the appeal, success and economic feasibility of these projects. In addition, convenient parking at or near transit is essential to provide mass transit access to those who do not live within walking distance of the stations.

THA Consulting, Inc (THA) has provided parking consulting, planning and design services for dozens of transit and TOD projects. Our parking specialists, planners, architects, and engineers understand the important role parking plays to support TODs and transit systems. We use this expertise and experience to develop parking solutions that include "right sizing" the amount of parking to be built to not financially burden a project, and to design facilities that are attractive, convenient, comfortable, and durable. We clearly recognize that the goal of TOD and mass transit is to reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles. However, providing suitable parking accommodations for commuters, residents, and visitors of TOD is a critical challenge that THA embraces to successfully develop these valuable projects.



Planning for parking in transit areas must take into consideration a number of factors, including convenience, connectivity, and security.

Planning for transit and TOD parking must take into consideration several factors, including the ability to share parking amongst different users, convenience, connectivity, and security. Parking must give patrons quick and easy access into and throughout the structure, connect easily to their destinations, and be designed to create a secure environment. Incorporating mixed-use elements into the parking structure also serves to add amenities and enhance the vibrancy of the area. Features such as housing, retail, restaurant, or office space are often integrated with parking to create

active and vibrant destinations. Planning for safe, attractive, and convenient parking should be addressed early in the TOD development process to improve cost efficiently, convenience, and the overall desirability and atmosphere of the TOD and transit project.