

Parking problems

When your car can drive itself, we won't need parking lots close to home or the workplace. Word is, driverless cars could be shuttling us to and from our destinations as soon as 2020. But when parking becomes a thing of the past, who wins and who loses?

SAVING SPACE

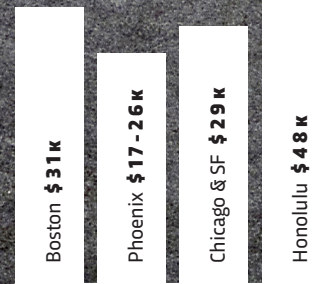
The average width of a parking spot is 8 to 9 feet. Driverless car spots can be as narrow as 6.5 feet. That means room for 20 to 25 percent more spots.
Source: Autotrader

The US Department of Transportation has designated the San Diego region as one of ten proving grounds for autonomous vehicles.

“The biggest impact is going to be on parking. We aren't going to need it, definitely not in the places we have it now. Having parking wedged or close to where people spend time, that's going to be a thing of the past. If I go to a football game, my car doesn't need to stay with me. If I'm at the office, it doesn't need to be there. The current shopping center with the sea of parking around it, that's dead.”

—Alain L. Kornhauser, a researcher in autonomous vehicles at Princeton University

AVERAGE COST OF BUILDING A PARKING SPACE



Source: "The High Cost of Minimum Parking Requirements," Donald Shoup

INDUSTRY IMPACTS

The rise of driverless cars will have far-reaching effects. Here are some of the industries that may feel the sting:

- Parking
- Real Estate
- Hotels
- Pro truck drivers
- Auto Repair
- Law Enforcement
- Insurance
- Airlines

SAN DIEGO STATS

55
THOUSAND
parking spaces
downtown

40
THOUSAND
vehicles commute to
and from downtown
every day

2.5
SPOTS
per 1,000 feet
of retail in most
nontransit
areas

HOW SOON?

» Raj Nair, executive vice president at Ford Motor Co., told Automotive News Europe that vehicles one step below full automation will hit the market by 2020.

» Lyft is partnering with nuTonomy to offer driverless ride-hailing in Boston before the end of the year, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

FIXING PARKING WOES IN THE INTERIM

A study by UC Davis found that parking difficulties were the top reason people use ride-hailing services like Uber or Lyft.

Several venues around San Diego have designated ride-hailing dropoff zones:

- » San Diego International Airport
- » Petco Park
- » Del Mar Fairgrounds
- » Mattress Firm Amphitheatre
- » San Diego Mesa College
- » Viejas Arena at SDSU

POSSIBLE SETBACKS

Parking as a business?
The San Diego Unified Port District FY2018 budget projects \$16.7 million in parking revenue

Safety concerns?
As of October, the California DMV has received 44 accident reports involving autonomous vehicles.

What now?
Public land owners and operators could be left with a sea of empty parking lots. How will that space be used?