

PARKING GUIDANCE

1. Key Characteristics of the Information

- Parking Guidance must start a long way from the actual parking space/garage. Good Parking Guidance systems guide to motorist from a long way out, making it easy and comfortable to select a suitable parking space.
- The information to make an appropriate decisions must be presented each time the motorist has to make a decision. You cannot assume that he/she remembered from the previous time.
- Preferably the information should be presented twice. Once well before the decision point, and once at the decision point.
- The information should be presented in increasing detail, when appropriate. So, for example, when approaching the area the motorist should be guided to which parking garage to use. When approaching the parking garage, the motorist should be guided which floor to use. When approaching the floor, the motorist should be guided to which aisle to use.

2. Key Characteristics of the Display Signs

- Large placard signs, with electronic inserts, overhead the roadway, work well.



- The signs alternately flash “OPEN” and “664” which is the number of available bays, when the parking is open.
- The signs display “FULL” when the parking is full or near capacity, but the parking is still open.
- The signs display “CLOSED” when the parking is not open due to operational reasons.

- The size of the static lettering, and the electronic lettering, must be appropriately sized for the viewing distance. Often the lettering is too small.
- The signs must be bright enough during the day to be clearly legible, but not too bright at night.

3. Key Characteristics of the Management Software

- Must be based on an open database such as SQL Server, for configuration, history, reports, etc.
- Field communications must be based on open protocols such as the SNMP based NTCIP for signs and sensor. Open standards mean assured future extensibility and maintainability.
- Must be able to retrieve data for parking guidance from multiple sources, such as:
 - Cash systems
 - Loop detectors
 - Individual parking bay sensors
- Must be able to fully configured to suite a variety of configurations.
- Must be able to support Intelligent Transportation System features such as flexible sign control, incident management, maintenance managent.