Shared, Autonomous Vehicles and their Effect on Land Use and the Public Realm

Thomas Fisher
Director, Minnesota Design Center
University of Minnesota
Impact on Streets
Impact on Parking
CONVENTIONAL GARAGE DESIGNED TO ADAPT TO AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

PHASE 1: 2018 - 2025

Today, the typical car is used only 5% of the time. 95% of the time it is parked: in a garage, at a house or on the street

However, by the time today’s garages are built, self parking cars and shared fleets will be a reality.

1. TUCK AWAY DRIVERLESS CARS
   Driverless vehicle storage is packed in hyper-efficient rows on the top level. Garages designed for self-parking or autonomous vehicles can substantially increase their efficiency and use.

2. INCREASE FLOOR TO FLOOR
   Floor to floor heights are designed to accommodate future uses such as residential or office.

3. HARVEST TRAFFIC ENERGY
   Energy-harvesting speed bumps recapture energy from passing vehicles.

4. WALK UP PARKING ON LOWER LEVELS
   Conventional parking is kept on lower levels for increased accessibility.

5. ARCHITECTURAL SKIN AS INTERACTIVE SURFACE
   Faceted skin becomes a display for personal virtual reality headsets as augmented projections replace handheld screens.

By 2025, fully autonomous cars are expected to be available to the general public for an additional $10,000  Source: Boston Consulting Group
AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES & THE EVOLUTION OF THE PARKING GARAGE

As car ownership evolves to a subscription service with intelligent fleets, there will be less need for parking. Garages are transformed into other uses such as office, residential and hotels.

In 2035, the need for parking should decline by more than 5.7 billion square meters in the United States (This equates to half the size of Connecticut) Source: McKinsey & Co.
Impact on Land Use
No One at the Wheel

Regional and city transportation plans for 68 of the biggest U.S. cities show little preparation for driverless cars. Among these plans:

50% Contain explicit recommendations for new highway construction

6% Consider the potential effect of driverless technology

3% Take into account ride-sharing services such as Uber or Lyft

Note: Study looked at the 50 most populous cities overall and the largest cities in every state.


THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.