To: OU students, faculty and staff  
From: Doug Myers, director, OU Parking and Transportation Services  
Date: July 23, 2014  
Re: Parking permit rate increase

To accommodate a growing University of Oklahoma student, staff and faculty population and in response to requests for more covered parking, OU Parking and Transportation Services plans to build two new 1,000-space garages over the next five years.

Because OU Parking and Transportation Services is a self-funded department, receiving no direct state or university funding, permit prices will increase for OU students, faculty and staff as well as visitors, vendors, football fans and others parking on campus to fund construction of the facilities.

“While raising parking rates is never best-case scenario, the student, faculty and staff leadership are supportive, because they understand it is the only option right now,” said Doug Myers, director of OU Parking and Transportation Services. “We are still servicing debt on the two parking facilities we have on Elm and Asp avenues at $1.4 million annually. Parking is needed on this campus, and many members of the OU community have expressed willingness to pay our fair share,” he said.

Exact location for the parking facilities has not been determined, but Myers said both would be on the main campus. Both facilities would serve faculty, staff and students. Some retail space also may be available on the ground floor of one parking facility.

“Garages would be built one at a time, and the construction timeline would be no more than 12 months for each,” Myers said. “Hopefully we would open our first new garage in late 2015 or early 2016.”

Total construction cost for the two 1,000-space garages is estimated at $34 million. To raise the money, permit rates will increase beginning this fall and for four consecutive years thereafter.

Students, both those living on campus and commuters, now pay $195 for permits, considerably less than the average $248.80 paid by their Big 12 peers. Student rate increases will average $18 per year over the five-year period.

Faculty and staff rates are $222 this year, and most are paid through payroll deduction. The monthly deduction would rise from $18.50 in fiscal year 2014 to $25.92 in 2019. For those employees paid bi-weekly, the rate would go from $9.25 to $12.96. The total for faculty and staff permits would rise to $311 in fiscal year 2019.
Permit-free parking also will remain an option over the next few years. Students, faculty and staff parking on the north side of the Lloyd Noble Center may ride Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) shuttles to campus for free. These shuttles run every 10 to 15 minutes during peak class times.

The OU Parking Services staff tweets available parking spaces each morning at @OUParking to help students find a place to park. Employees also are available to help provide other motorist services such as jumping stalled cars and providing aerosol flat fixatives. The office is located at 1107 Elm Ave. in Stubbeman Place.

For more information, visit parking.ou.edu on the web, email parking@ou.edu, send a direct message to @OUParking on Twitter or phone (405) 325-3311.