

4

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION



COLLEGE
of the
DESERT

4b | TRANSIT & ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Promoting and improving alternative transportation options on College of the Desert campuses can reduce carbon emissions from private vehicles, alleviate parking congestion, and promote healthier lifestyles. The following represents a list of best practices and design solutions to encourage greater use of transit and alternative transportation:

1. Walking paths and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure: Create and enhance existing walking paths and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure such as crosswalks, sidewalks, plazas, and colonnades. Ensure they are well-maintained, shaded, and well-lit so that walking is a desirable, accessible and safe experience (rather than driving from one side of campus to another).

2. Infrastructure improvements: Invest in infrastructure improvements such as sidewalk improvements and storm drain/water collection/flood mitigation projects. By containing and directing water away from pedestrian paths and roads, and improving the pedestrian experience overall, students will be encouraged to safely walk to alternative points of transportation to and from campus. Design of these improvements shall consider and incorporate the Palm Desert Golf Cart Transportation Program, which has a goal of providing safe golf-cart access and pathways through the city¹.

3. Bike-sharing and rental programs: Implement bike-sharing programs on campus where students and faculty can easily rent bikes for short commutes or quick access to nearby business such as eateries and other services. Provide designated bike lanes and secure bike parking areas to encourage cycling.

4. Campus shuttles: The District may consider offering free or low-cost shuttle services that circulate around each campus, between campuses, and even extend into nearby residential areas. Ensure that shuttle routes are convenient and have designated stops (preferably in drop off/pick up areas set off of the main road), with identifiable signage in high-traffic areas such as parking lots, and key academic buildings. Consider electric shuttles that have zero carbon emissions (see subsection C – Infrastructure and EV Charging on the following page)

5. Car-sharing programs: The District may partner with car-sharing and/or ride-sharing companies to provide access to shared vehicles for students and faculty who need occasional access to a car for off-campus trips. This can reduce the need for private vehicle ownership among the campus community, especially students. Upcoming master plans should establish designated parking spaces for these types of shared vehicles on campus or near campus.

6. Promote public transportation: The District can continue partnerships with local public transportation agencies, including CV Link, Sunline and IE Commuter, to provide discounted or subsidized transit passes for students and faculty. Campus development projects should consider the following enhancements for designated bus stops: shading, seating, signage, and lighting for safe and desirable waiting and drop-off and pickup experiences for students and faculty. Digital advertising could provide an opportunity for visibility of campus programs to the surrounding community as well as 3rd party advertising (potential partnership/agreement with the local city government).

7. Signage at transit stops: Enhancing identification of transit stops with physical signage and identity elements will act as a beacon to students and staff that are considering taking alternate transportation to and from campus. Refer to Chapter 3 - Wayfinding and Signage for examples. These location should also be clearly

1. <https://www.palmdesert.gov/our-city/departments/public-works/traffic-and-transportation> - See 'Golf Cart Transportation Program'

SELECTED INSPIRATION IMAGES - INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PARKING & EV CHARGING



IMAGE 4.6 | DROP-OFF, PATHS AT PALM SPRINGS CAMPUS



IMAGE 4.7 | SOLAR CANOPY (TIMBER AND STEEL FRAME)



IMAGE 4.8 | CONTINUOUS MONOLITHIC SOLAR CANOPY OVER LARGE PARKING LOT, STEEL FRAMED



IMAGE 4.9 | STEEL FRAME PV CANOPY & EV CHARGING



IMAGE 4.10 | PARKING WITH LUSH VEGETATION & PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE (PALM SPRINGS CAMPUS)