BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Historically, automobile use has guided suburban growth and sprawl, detracting energy, population growth, and development from city centers. Today, cities are beginning to realize the importance of getting people out of their cars. Instead of relying on the construction of highways to solve urban congestion problems, cities are now using parking policies to encourage sustainable, equitable, and efficient growth.

THE COURSE
• Studying current parking policy in University City and in other cities with similar characteristics.
• Understanding best practices in parking policy that lead to dense, transit-oriented development (TOD) patterns and how these are achieved.
• Research rewards that can be gained through appropriate parking policies.
• Examining how cities that are experiencing reduced parking needs can repurpose lots and garages.

DAILY TASKS
• Locate sites via online research and satellite
• Surveying to count total capacity, occupancy rate, and pricing
• Maintain and update GIS, Google My Map, and Excel
• Attend various PCPC meetings

SUCCESES, CHALLENGES, & IMPROVEMENTS
• Lack of complete information between interns and offices
• Difficulty locating all public and private parking facilities
• Difficulty keeping track, physically, of where sites are that are already included with ones that aren’t
• Difficulty maintaining up-to-date information on Excel and schedule
• Satellite imagery helped locate many lots that are crucial to include in the survey
• Visually documenting status of various sites using Google My Maps helped significantly in order to show spatially where lots and garages were and to continue maintaining updated schedule
• Begin site visits earlier, many additional sites found while walking around
• Same surveyors to survey each site to maintain accuracy and approach

THE SURVEY
• Once complete, the survey will include information about average price and occupancy rates in each district as well as University City as a whole.
• It will include many graphics showing where there are higher levels of parking, how pricing compares to other university districts in the US, and how on-street parking compares to garage/lot parking prices
• The survey will also include a series of recommendations for how University City can continue developing in a TOD way
• The survey will be completed every 5 years in order to document the region’s change over time

READINGS
Many of the course readings were pulled from Donald Shoup’s book The High Cost of Free Parking

For more information, please contact Sydney Maves (smaves@brynmawr.edu).