

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**  
**Campus Facilities Planning Committee**  
**Agenda Item Description Form**

1. **Item:** *1A Parking Garage Exterior Design*
2. **Requesting Department:** *Parking and Transportation*
3. **Contact Names & Phone Numbers:** *Bob Browand, 2-5750*
4. **Presenter:** *Bob Browand*
5. **Recommendation/Action:** *Approval*

**6. Summary:**

The University of Houston Parking Garage 1a will be a 5 level precast concrete structure housing 1500 vehicles, including 8 motorcycles. The garage will accommodate students, faculty, and staff. Each group has a separate entrance into the garage: faculty/staff entries have two-lane entrances and two-lane exits, and the student entry has three-lane entries and four-lane exits. Ample queuing space has been provided at each entry.

During special events the entries and exits can work together to handle arriving or departing vehicles, distinct parking areas can link to serve overflow crowds, and weekday flow can be reversed to improve traffic flow.

The garage is to be mainly accessed from the north via a driveway running between the garage and the Welcome Center Garage. A secondary entrance is provided along the west side. Additional parking spaces on the roof of the Welcome Center Garage will be accessed via a pre-cast concrete vehicular bridge from the 5<sup>th</sup> level of Parking Garage 1a.

The elevator/stair tower at southeast corner of the garage aligns with a crosswalk connecting to the Optometry building across Calhoun, and provides an iconic element as an entry point to the campus. The northwest elevator/stair tower is similar in design but at a reduced scale to provide a signature element addressing the interior of the campus across from the Welcome Center Garage.

The precast parking structure is clad in buff color precast panels with horizontal reveals to provide shadows and texture. Gray metal panels will clad both elevator towers, with woven metal mesh and glass on its exterior.

The stairs will be a precast concrete with a solid metal panel handrail system supported off a precast center wall painted red.

The garage design draws upon the materials palette -- buff brick/pre-cast concrete/stone, metal accents, and transparent energy efficient glass -- already used extensively on new

campus construction. The Welcome Center and Stadium Parking Garages, for example, realize this palette in buff concrete, brick and cast stone, the same transparent glass, and similar metal grilles and shading screens.

Key feature areas have been designed to give the garage a UH identity. These areas include the stair towers at the corners of Wheeler at Calhoun and Entrance 4 Drive and Welcome Center Service Drive. The towers will be recognizable from a distance and create a sense of gateway/arrival. The towers will be lit at night so that the upper ceilings glow and create a strong visual effect from a distance.

7. **Proposed Start Date:** Upon Approval
8. **Supporting Documentation Description:** Site Plan and Renderings.











