

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUTER PARKING LOTS

Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment

2006



Ulster County Transportation Council

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Ulster County Transportation Council

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ULSTER COUNTY COMMUTER PARKING LOTS Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment

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BACKGROUND

Federal transportation law requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) within a designated Transportation Management Area (TMA) implement and evaluate a Congestion Management Process (CMP). The CMP requires an MPO to quantify, evaluate, monitor, and manage congestion throughout the region's surface transportation network. The Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Kingston and a portion of the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Urbanized Areas. The UCTC is responsible for implementing and monitoring a CMP in Ulster County.

The UCTC identified the need to perform a commuter lot capacity analysis in its SFY 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as part of its Congestion Management Strategy. Monitoring of commuter facilities allows UCTC to ensure that convenient access to alternate transportation modes as well as car pooling is available within the county. Nearly all of the commuter facilities in Ulster County are associated with areas of the transportation system that have been identified as experiencing moderate to severe recurring and non-recurring congestion. Monitoring parking demand will allow UCTC and other decision makers to better evaluate utilizing Federal funds on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to address parking capacity issues and with it congestion and intermodal opportunities.

METHODOLOGY

Commuter parking lot use was observed by UCTC staff for Ulster County's six public facilities (see Figure 1) over a period of five consecutive weekdays in October 2006. Data collected included a daily vehicle count, observations of pedestrian and public transit activity, overall conditions, and photographs. All data was collected during the weekday AM commuter parking peak hours (between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM) during non-State and non-Federal holidays. The six facilities investigated are the following:

- P1- State Route 32 at New York State Thruway Exit 20 Southbound, Town of Saugerties
- P2- State Routes 32 and 199, Town of Ulster
- P3- State Route 28, I-587 at New York State Thruway Exit 19, Town of Ulster
- P4- State Route 32, Town of Rosendale
- P5- State Route 299 at New York State Thruway Exit 18, Town of New Paltz
- P6- US Route 9W at State Route 299, Town of Lloyd



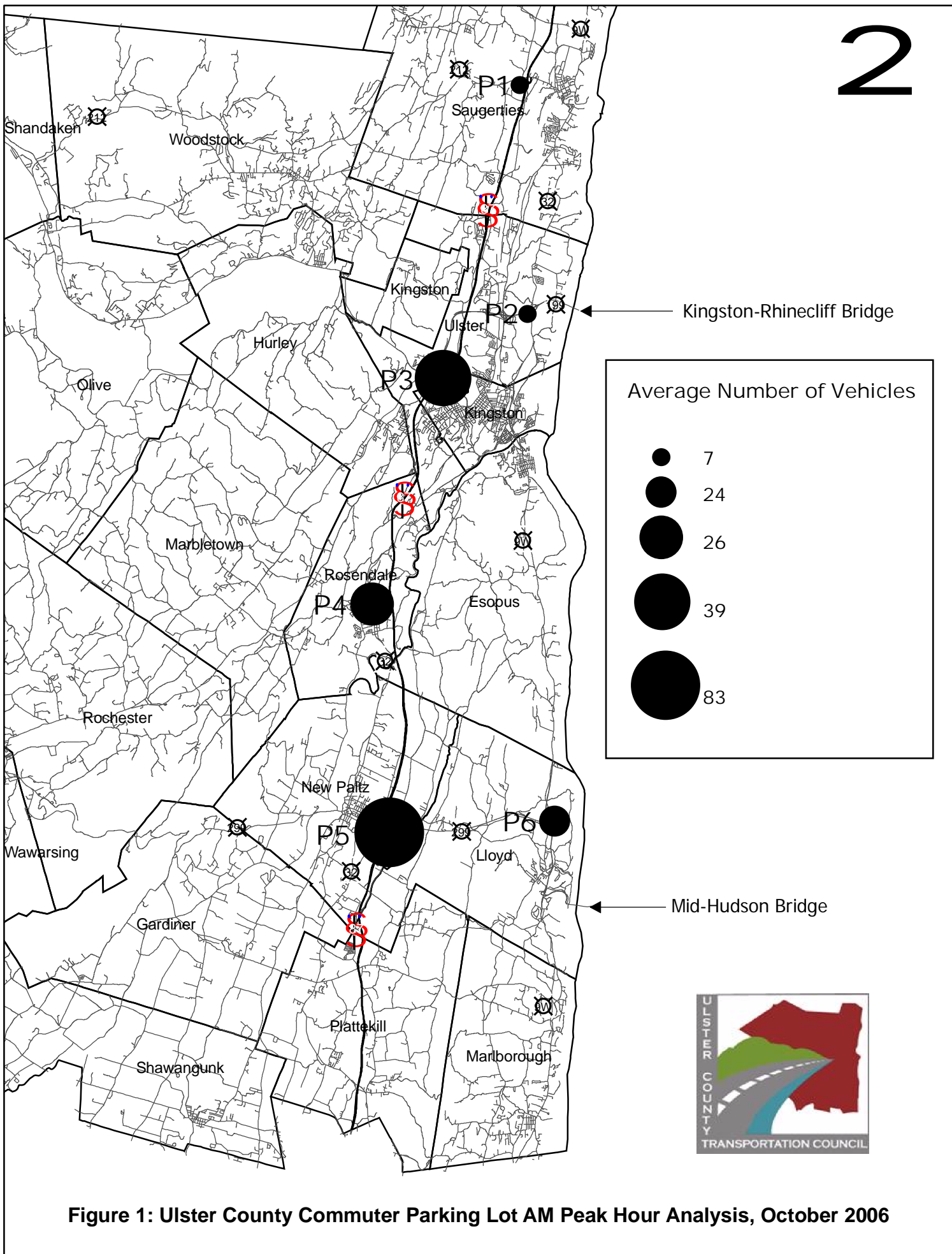


Figure 1: Ulster County Commuter Parking Lot AM Peak Hour Analysis, October 2006

DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY

A summary capacity analysis for the six facilities is shown below in Table 1. With the exception of the facilities in Lloyd and the recently opened lot in Rosendale, all lots in the County have an average utilization equal to or greater than 50% of their capacity. The data also shows that peak usage cannot be attributed to any single day with peaks occurring on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at various lots. The attached Appendix provides additional details and graphics concerning weekday parking volumes at each facility. It should be noted that all of the lots are free.

Table 1: Ulster County Commuter Parking Lot Capacity Summary

Ulster County Commuter Parking Lot	% of parking lot occupancy					Average	Capacity
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
P1: Thruway Exit 20 SB, Saugerties	33.3%	50.0%	83.3%	66.7%	66.7%	60.0%	12
P2: State Route 32 and 199, Ulster	78.6%	28.6%	35.7%	50.0%	57.1%	50.0%	14
P3: Thruway Exit 19, Ulster	105.3%	110.5%	107.9%	107.9%	76.3%	101.6%	38
P4: State Route 32, Rosendale	39.7%	60.3%	53.4%	46.6%	24.1%	44.8%	58
P5: Thruway Exit 18, New Paltz	87.5%	102.5%	115.0%	115.0%	98.8%	103.8%	80
P6: US Route 9W/SR 299, Lloyd	23.3%	24.4%	30.0%	33.3%	21.1%	26.4%	90

Source: Data collected by UCTC staff on October 10, 11, 12, 13, and 16, 2006.

FACILITIES ASSESSMENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

P1: NYS Thruway Exit 20 Southbound, Town of Saugerties: This facility is located on NYS Route 32 directly opposite the NYS Thruway Southbound Exit 20 in the Town of Saugerties. The facility has an approximate capacity of 12 spaces that are not striped. The facility is served by Adirondack/Pine Hill Trailways. The facility is not paved, has no bus stop shelter, lacks signage, and lighting is not provided although neighboring land uses provide some light. Sight distance is good. Safety issues exist related to the lack of curbing and poor site conditions interior to the lot. Access to the lot also forces left turning movements across hatched pavement markings. The lot is owned and maintained by NYSDOT. Overall condition of the facility is poor.

The parking facility currently operates at an average of 60% of its maximum capacity with a daily average occupancy of 7 vehicles.

P1 Recommendation: The preferred alternative for this location is to follow the recommendations in the recently completed *Intermodal Opportunities Analysis Final Report*. The Report recommends a facility large enough to accommodate 40 to 50 spaces with a paved surface. A site may be available from the NYS Thruway Authority. Transit access should be provided as well as a shelter, signage and appropriate lighting. Careful location of the driveway may be able to provide for a left hand turning lane using existing pavement. Absent funding for the preferred improvements, the existing facility should be upgraded immediately with new curb cuts and paved area as well as changes in pavement markings to allow for left turn lanes. Improvements and/or a new facility should be a high priority with leadership provided by NYSDOT, NYS Thruway Authority, and the UCTC.

P2: State Route 32 at State Route 199, Town of Ulster: This facility is located at the east bound off-ramp intersection of NYS Route 32 and NYS Route 199 in the Town of Ulster. This parking facility contains approximately 14 parking spaces. The parking facility is not paved lacks a shelter, lighting, and signage. The facility is not served by public transit. Curbing is absent at the site entrance. The access is hampered by the overpass and off-ramps for NYS Route 199. A signalized traffic light was installed at this location in 2006 to address safety at the intersections of State Route 199 Off/On ramps at State Route 32. The signal improves the safety of access to the lot. Illegal dumping at this location is a problem. The facility is owned by NYSDOT and informally maintained by the Ulster County Department of Public Works. The overall condition of the facility is poor.

The facility currently operates at an average of 50% of its maximum capacity with a daily average occupancy of 7 vehicles.

P2 Recommendation: The recently completed *Intermodal Opportunities Analysis Final Report* recommends a commuter parking lot in this area that is capable of accommodating 50 vehicles. Transit access is recommended as is a bus stop shelter, necessary signage, and lighting. Security cameras may be needed to address illegal dumping issues depending on location. These improvements are of moderate priority with leadership provided by NYSDOT and the UCTC. Interim improvements should address lighting and paved road access until the other work can be programmed.

P3- State Route 28, I-587 at New York State Thruway Exit 19, Town of Ulster: The State Route 28, I-587 at NYS Thruway Exit 19 parking facility is located adjacent to I-587 near the Kingston Roundabout. Access is one way from I-587 with and exit onto Washington Avenue. The facility contains 38 paved and striped spaces. Lighting is provided as are handicapped spaces. Some signage is present but rules are not posted. The site is not served by public transit and shelters are not present. Access is one way with right turn only for both entrance and exit. The site is located within a designated flood plain and has flooded at least once since its construction in 2003. The site is owned by NYSDOT and maintained by Ulster County. The overall condition of the site is excellent.

The facility operates at an average of 102% of its maximum designed capacity with a daily average occupancy of 39 vehicles. Commuters are currently parking their vehicles in non-designated parking spaces along both sides of the access road. Opportunities to expand the

existing facility to meet the full demand at this location are limited because of right-of-way constraints. That said some expansion can be accomplished at the existing location.

P3 Recommendation: Expansion at the existing facility location should be a high priority. Design should begin immediately to illustrate the amount of expansion that can occur at the existing site. UCTC staff estimates that additional 30-50 spaces can be accommodated here. Efforts should be made to provide for transit access to the facility. Amenities needed include waiting shelters, and additional signage. Leadership should be provided by NYSDOT and the UCTC.

Should the expansion not satisfy demand, the recently completed *Intermodal Opportunities Analysis Final Report*, identifies a parking “annex” south and east of the Thruway Exit 19 interchange near the Esopus Creek (behind the Kingston Tourist Information Center Caboose on Washington Avenue). The proposed annex area is owned by Ulster County, however, access would be by right-of-way through a private parcel and deed restrictions may apply to the property owned by the County. This site would also be located in the Esopus Creek flood plain. This expansion could be tied to the improvement of Washington Avenue now being designed by NYSDOT. This improvement will provide better access to the annex site.

P4: State Route 32 Parking Facility, Town of Rosendale: This facility is located on the east side of NYS Route 32 opposite the Town of Rosendale Recreation Center. The parking facility contains 58 parking spaces. The facility is paved with signage, lighting, landscaping, and a soon-to-be completed shelter with restrooms. The parking facility is served by both UCAT and Adirondack/Pine Hill Trailways. The parking facility is owned by a private land owner who is also responsible for its maintenance. The Town of Rosendale pays the land owner a fee for supplying parking spaces to the public. NYSDOT, in turn, reimburses the Town of Rosendale for renting the facility using Federal and State funds. In 2006, the UCTC approved five-year commitment of Federal funds for this arrangement. The overall condition of the facility is excellent.

The facility currently operates at an average of 45% of its designed capacity with a daily average occupancy of 26 vehicles.

P4 Recommendation: This parking facility was constructed in 2006 and needs no further capacity or other improvements in the near term.

P5- State Route 299 at New York State Thruway Exit 18, Town of New Paltz: The New Paltz Thruway Exit 19 commuter parking lot is located on the west side of the Thruway entrance just prior to the toll booths. The facility contains 80 parking spaces. The parking facility is paved, has signage, lighting, and is well laid out. The site is served by Adirondack/Pine Hill Trailways and is equipped with a bus shelter and dedicated bus pull out. NYSDOT originally constructed the facility while NYS Thruway Authority maintains it. The overall condition of the facility is good.

The site currently operates at an average of 104% of its maximum designed capacity with a daily average occupancy of 83 vehicles. Both NYSDOT and the NYS Thruway are in the



The site currently operates at an average of 104% of its maximum designed capacity with a daily average occupancy of 83 vehicles. Both NYSDOT and the NYS Thruway are in the planning stages to expand the parking facility north toward State Route 299 with a revised entrance. Other alternative sites may be available to accommodate additional expansion needs.

P5 Recommendation: The *Intermodal Opportunities Analysis Final Report* recommends the expansion of the State Route 299 at New York State Thruway Exit 18, Town of New Paltz commuter parking lot by an additional 40 to 50 spaces. NYSDOT and NYSTA are currently working on a project that would expand the existing lot for 80 to approximately 150 spaces. Additionally, the Intermodal Report further recommends implementing a parking “annex” possibly on the north side of State Route 299 in the future and for UCAT to operate shuttle service from this parking facility to the Village of New Paltz. The recently completed *New Paltz Transportation Plan* also recommends expansion of commuter parking capacity in this area as well as the UCAT shuttle service.

Decisions regarding the use or sale of sites in public ownership should be consider the future park and ride needs of the New Paltz area.

P6: US 9W and State Route 299, Town of Lloyd: The commuter parking lot facility is located on the east side of NYS Route 9W opposite the intersection with NYS Route 299. Access to the parking facility is aided by a traffic signal at US 9W and State Route 299. The parking facility has approximately 90 parking spaces. This parking facility is served by Adirondack/Pine Hill Trailways and equipped with a bus stop shelter and pay telephone. The site is lighted; rules for its use are not posted. Tractor trailers currently utilize this parking facility's excess capacity for trailer storage. This trailer parking does not appear to be interfering with commuter parking or bus operations. NYSDOT currently owns and maintains this facility. The overall condition of the facility is good.

The facility operates at an average of 26% of its maximum designed capacity with a daily average occupancy of 24 vehicles. Usage of the facility may increase in the future as bus service to the Poughkeepsie train station is brought on line that will access the facility.

P6 Recommendation: The need to post rules for usage is apparent, particularly with the use of the facility as storage for tractor trailers. The facility may be able to accommodate additional amenities to increase its use as well as generate revenues. Consideration should be given to allow retail use of a portion of the facility, such as a coffee shop/deli on a long term rental basis. Leadership should be provided by NYSDOT, UCTC, and the Town of Lloyd.

CONCLUSION

The six public commuter parking facilities in Ulster County are well utilized with several that should receive capacity improvements either immediately or within the next five years. The highest priority commuter parking lot capacity expansions associated with existing lots with the county include the following:

P1 - NYS Thruway Saugerties Exit 20 Southbound, Town of Saugerties – The preferred alternative is to construct a new facility to accommodate 40-50 cars. Absent this, the existing facility should be upgraded with pavement, curbing and lighting. The condition of the existing site makes either alternative one that should be accomplished immediately.

P2 – NYS Route 32 at Route 199, Town of Ulster - Facility upgrade with expansion consistent with the Intermodal Report within the next five years.

P3 - NYS Thruway Exit 19, Town of Ulster – Immediate expansion at existing site with service by public transit with long term consideration to develop a Parking Annex.

P5- State Route 299 at New York State Thruway Exit 18, Town of New Paltz – Implementation of the project now being worked on NYSDOT and NYSTA

APPENDIX

Table A-1

P1- NYS Thruway Exit 20 South Bound, Town of Saugerties			
Days	Lot Capacity	No. of Cars	% Occupied
Monday	12	4	33.3%
Tuesday	12	6	50.0%
Wednesday	12	10	83.3%
Thursday	12	8	66.7%
Friday	12	8	66.7%
Average Occupancy		7.2	60.0%

Graphic A-1

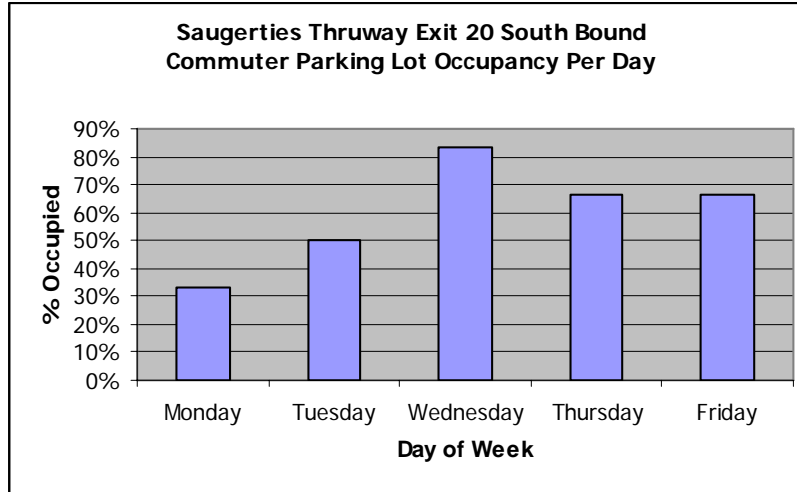


Table A-2

P2- State Route 32 and 199, Town of Ulster			
Days	Lot Capacity	No. of Cars	% Occupied
Monday	14	11	78.6%
Tuesday	14	4	28.6%
Wednesday	14	5	35.7%
Thursday	14	7	50.0%
Friday	14	8	57.1%
Average Occupancy		7.0	50.0%

Graphic A2

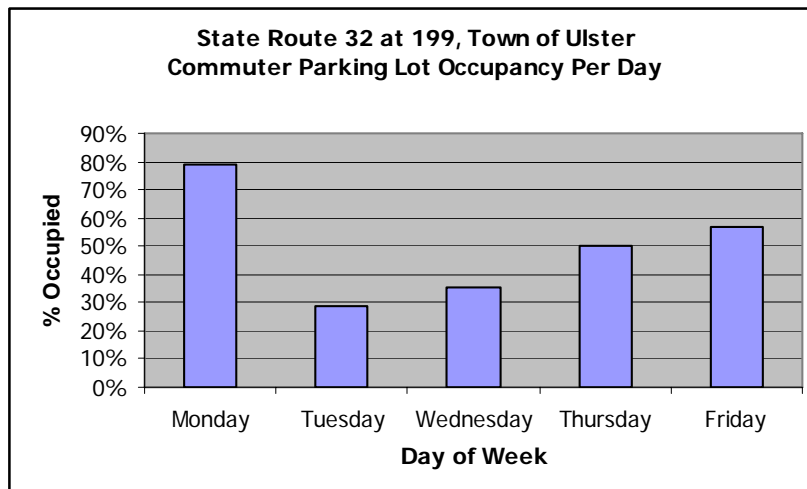


Table A3

P3- NYS Thruway Exit 19, Town of Ulster			
Days	Lot Capacity	No. of Cars	% Occupied
Monday	38	40	105.3%
Tuesday	38	42	110.5%
Wednesday	38	41	107.9%
Thursday	38	41	107.9%
Friday	38	29	76.3%
Average Occupancy		39.0	101.6%

Graphic A3

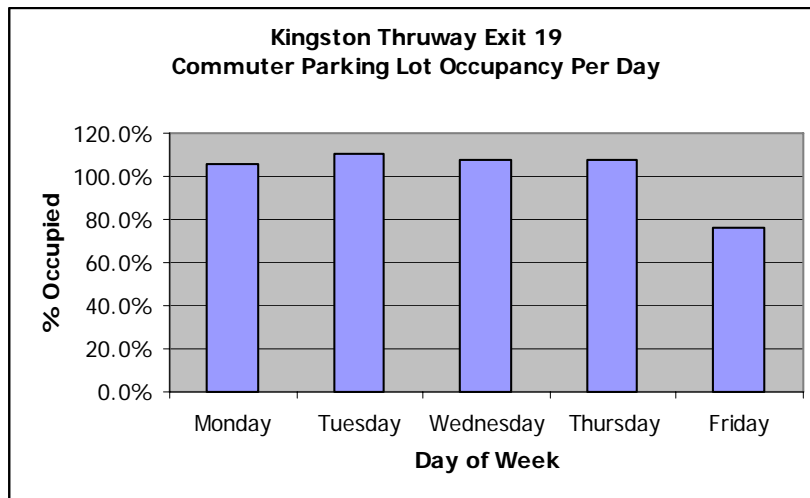


Table A4

P4- State Route 32, Town of Rosendale			
Days	Lot Capacity	No. of Cars	% Occupied
Monday	58	23	39.7%
Tuesday	58	35	60.3%
Wednesday	58	31	53.4%
Thursday	58	27	46.6%
Friday	58	14	24.1%
Average Occupancy		26.0	44.8%

Graphic A4

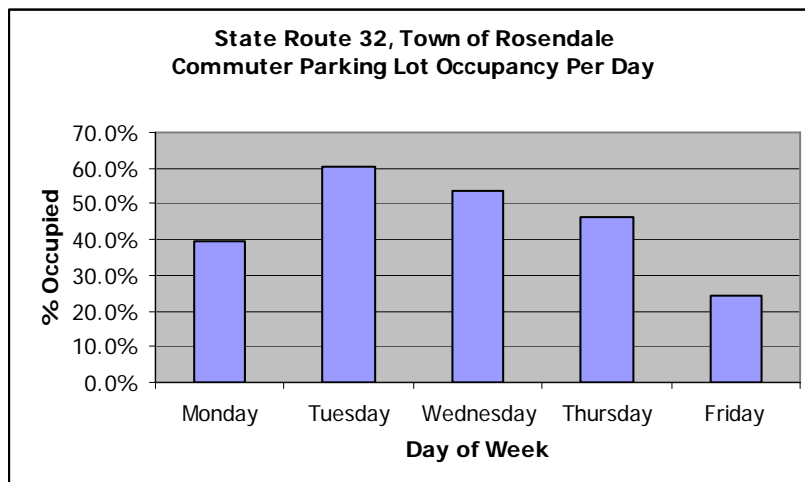


Table A5

P5- NYS Thruway Exit 18, Town of New Paltz			
Days	Lot Capacity	No. of Cars	% Occupied
Monday	80	70	87.5%
Tuesday	80	82	102.5%
Wednesday	80	92	115.0%
Thursday	80	92	115.0%
Friday	80	79	98.8%
Average Occupancy		83.0	103.8%

Graphic A5

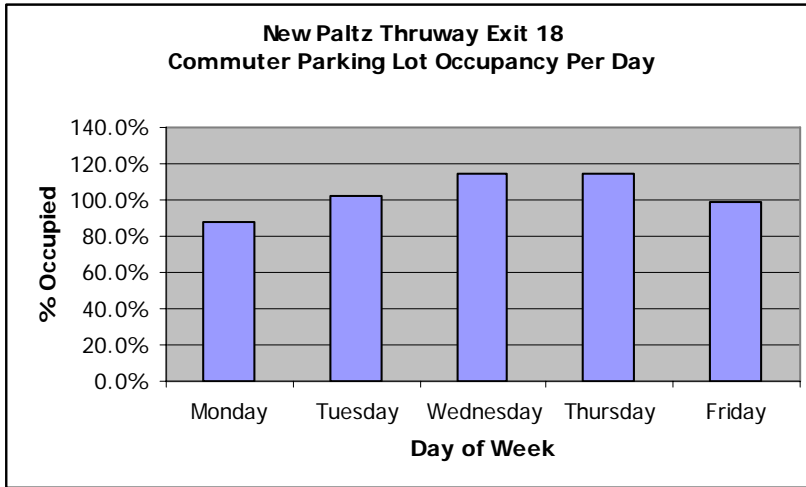


Table A6

P6- U.S. Route 9W, Town of Lloyd			
Days	Lot Capacity	No. of Cars	% Occupied
Monday	90	21	23.3%
Tuesday	90	22	24.4%
Wednesday	90	27	30.0%
Thursday	90	30	33.3%
Friday	90	19	21.1%
Average Occupancy		24.0	26.4%

Graphic A6

