Garage Lighting Project
to Save Energy and $$$

Transportation Services recently installed efficient lighting fixtures and sensors within 10 University parking garages and at the Fleet Management facility at 155 North Harvard Street. The project will conserve significant amounts of electricity and save approximately $400K a year.

The standard metal-halide lights, which use 198-watts/hour, are being replaced with 3-bulb/2-ballast super T8 fluorescent fixtures which use just 92-watts/hour – a reduction of more than 50%. Even though these fixtures consume less energy, they provide the same amount of light. Motion sensors will further reduce energy use by turning off certain lights in areas where there has not been any activity for ten minutes. However the garages will never go completely dark. An extensive amount of research was conducted to ensure that there will be sufficient lighting levels at all times.

Funded through the Office for Sustainability Loan Fund and a $200K rebate from NStar, the project is expected to pay for itself in approximately three years.

Transportation Services is also embarking on another lighting initiative targeting above-ground garages. The goal is to replace the rooftop metal-halide fixtures with highly efficient LED lighting. Much more testing is needed to ensure proper light levels and a positive comprehensive lifecycle cost analysis. If it proves successful, the project will be another step by UOS in helping Harvard reach its goal of reducing GHG emissions 30% by the year 2016.