The Oakland University Board of Trustees has approved a $7.2 million plan to expand main campus parking capacity by more than 8 percent, as well as to create a new traffic circle at the intersection of Pioneer Drive and Meadow Brook Road.

Cognizant of overall parking demand that at times has exceeded capacity, University engineers worked with consultants to identify seven sites where parking could be added affordably and with minimal environmental concerns.

In total, 660 spaces will be added and available for use prior to the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year.

University leaders project that the added capacity will lead to a maximum parking space utilization rate of 95 percent. Also part of the project, new emergency blue phones and security cameras will be installed in the P-1, P-37, and P-39 lots.

The addition of the roundabout at Pioneer Drive and Meadow Brook is expected to significantly improve traffic flow. To date, this area has seen periodic traffic congestion, particularly during the evening rush hour when many faculty, staff and students are leaving campus.

Work on the approved parking and road projects will begin on May 1. All will be funded through the use of existing University resources.