

From: [Luke Hanson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Eliminate parking minimums
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 1:17:36 PM

Greetings, Council:

I'm writing to urge you to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and fully eliminate minimum off-street parking requirements in Saint Paul. Our city's Climate Action Resilience Plan sets a goal for reducing trips by private motor vehicles in our city. Eliminating off-street parking requirements is probably the simplest and most easily-administered way that our city can advance this vision of a city where low-carbon transportation options like walking, biking, and taking transit are as safe and convenient as driving.

Eliminating off-street parking requirements is likewise a necessary step towards solving our city's crisis of housing affordability. By requiring that a large portion of every residential lot be dedicated to car storage, off-street parking minimums makes it financially and dimensionally impossible for would-be neighborhood developers to build ADUs, duplexes, or other Missing Middle Housing on lots where they would comfortably fit. Given the magnitude of our housing crisis, and the dire need to increase our tax base, Saint Paul should make it both possible and easy for local entrepreneurs to improve and increase our housing stock, one lot at a time. Ending off-street parking minimums is a prerequisite step in this direction.

The "Full Elimination" option is superior to the "Reduce" option. The "Reduce" option is needlessly complicated: it would be more difficult and expensive for city employees to administer, and more confusing for small businesses and developers. Some fear that fully eliminating parking minimums will exacerbate parking pressures in certain areas. But to adopt the "Reduce" option based on this concern would be to adopt a solution before confirming a problem. It would be more sensible to fully eliminate parking minimums, and respond to parking issues as needed. But I suspect that, if parking "problems" emerge, they'll sort themselves out: people will take the bus instead, or park a block further away and walk to their destination. You as a council and our city's staff have more pressing issues that demand your attention.

Sincerely,

Luke Hanson
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