

Councilmember Prince and City Council,

I'm writing in support of option 2 to eliminate parking minimums within the city of Saint Paul. Given our climate crisis, it's imperative that the city stop requiring more parking (resulting in more asphalt and more driving) to be built, particularly if the property owner does not want to.

Thank you,

Jeb Rach  
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From: **Kate** <[shiel076@umn.edu](mailto:shiel076@umn.edu)>  
Date: Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 1:10 AM  
Subject: I am opposed to eliminating parking requirements. It is already hell for disabled people trying to park  
To: Jane Prince <[janeprinceW7@gmail.com](mailto:janeprinceW7@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Lantry <[kathy.lantry@comcast.net](mailto:kathy.lantry@comcast.net)>

Jane:

I am Kate Shields, formerly of Ward 7. I am currently in Ward 3, and assume I will move to Eagan, if I need to move from my current apt bldg.

My reason: I am now 71, handicapped by a wonky knee and balance problems, and need a parking space marked for the handicapped so I can get in and out. I find myself competing with both physically fit folks and other handicapped people for too few spaces. Because there are never enough, and because people plowing snow dump the snow in the handicapped spots.

I can't rent a scooter--or probably ride a bike--due to balance problems and my knees, etc. So why I don't take a bus? Because the bus stops that exist (nowhere near my apt.) are often full of smokers, and I have major trouble when I breathe even traces of smoke. I would have to choose between an asthma attack and the weather--rain, snow, etc. if I took a bus. Then there are cabs. I really don't want to use Uber or Lyft--partly because of the way they treat their employees, and partly because I doubt if they vet their drivers well. I use old-time cab companies to get to and from the airport, but that is rare. And I really just want to drive my own car.

I assume the people pushing to remove these parking spot limits are builders (some of them far richer than they let on), and idealistic Millennials, etc. who have never had to get around in a wheelchair.

The decision you are making about parking will affect users of the bldgs in question indefinitely. And it will drive people like me away from St Paul.

BTW: I am serious about assuming I would need to move out of St Paul. I already figured that out--and am sharing my concern with other elders.

--Kate, still missing the East Side

P.S. You may share my concerns, if you choose.