

Mr. Thao and Mr. Tolbert,

I must say that I'm rather surprised, and very disheartened, that Salt Cellar's opening is still delayed more than a month after their planned date. Cathedral Hill is popular because it is dense with older building stock and walkability. While I understand the concerns surrounding parking needs of nearby businesses, there are other ways to address parking shortages such as demand-pricing or contracting excess parking from nearby Saint Paul College.

But this also brings up another, often-ignored, policy that should be addressed. Why do liquor licenses have parking minimums attached to them? The very idea that bars or restaurants should be required to provide parking as part of their ability to serve alcohol is mind-boggling. When my wife and I visit this area, we use our personal bikes, NiceRide bike-share, or Metro Transit. However, other patrons are driving which puts us and others at risk of being victims of those patrons driving under the influence.

Meanwhile, national trends are towards less vehicle miles traveled and the city should recognize this in zoning and parking minimum requirements. As for the Salt Cellar situation, maybe the city can take a "wait and see" approach. The planning department could reassess the area in 6 months to see if the lack of one parking space is great enough to negatively impact the nearby businesses.

Overall, I'd like to see the city and Cathedral Hill take a more progressive approach to parking near Western and Selby. The answer is not more parking but better parking management of current resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Sonn

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