

From: [Robert Wales](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Eliminate Parking Minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:47:44 AM

Good morning,

Writing in support of completely eliminating parking minimums. These minimums have long been a tool of forestalling or prohibiting otherwise good and needed development - especially in medium and high density areas - simply because of the perception of slight inconvenience.

The arguments always fall flat that multi-unit housing should require a minimum of parking spaces. Housing should concentrate on building for humans - not for cars. As a city, we should be eliminating all unnecessary barriers to housing people.

We're a city that has committed ourselves to be more conscious of our impact on our environment. Continuing to adhere to car first policy is a betrayal of that commitment. We should target our sites on building more transit, better and more accessible non-single-use car infrastructure.

A better world is possible but we need to be willing to take the steps to not only allow it - but promote it.

Thank you. I hope you will eliminate parking minimums city-wide in residential zoning.

Robert Wales
1727 Race St W (Midas Wedge)
Saint Paul, MN 55116

From: [Zach Allen](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Eliminate Parking Minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:37:03 AM

Hi,

My name is Zach Allen, a Midway resident at 1315 Minnehaha Ave W, St Paul. I am writing in support of the Planning Commission's recommendation of fully eliminating parking minimums in St Paul.

Option 2, fully eliminating parking minimums is the best option for these reasons:

- Disincentives automobiles as primary method of transportation, reducing carbon emissions and noise pollution
- Encourages adoption of green transportation: public transit, biking, walking
- Increases housing affordability and construction
- Promotes greater social equity: parking minimums can raise rental costs and inhibit affordable housing development
- Our city was planned and built before the widespread adoption of automobiles, retroactive parking minimums have been detrimental to it's growth

I hope you support Option 2: Full Elimination, St Paul and it's residents deserve better land use than storage for automobiles.

Thank you,

Zach Allen

From: [Trevor Burns](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#); [Emma Burns](#)
Subject: End Parking Minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:49:50 AM

Saint Paul Council,

Thank you for considering changing the parking requirements in Saint Paul. It is now clear that we must consider the negative impacts of our over reliance on automobiles more than ever before. Our planet and our future as a growing metropolitan area is at stake.

Please vote to eliminate the parking minimums so we as a city can continue to develop and grow in accordance with the clear values of the majority of our residents. This will not go unchallenged, of course, but please look at those who continue to want to stop the progress of Saint Paul. The gatekeepers continue to attempt a rule of the minority by being the loudest and meanest voices you hear as a Council and that many of our less connected residents hear.

Full elimination of minimums is an easy choice because it is the right choice. Only changing not eliminating the minimum requirements does not go far enough, this compromise may seem easier but will not deliver the outcomes necessary nor please those who wish to continue to gatekeep their neighborhoods.

Kindest regards for your hard work,

Trevor Burns
Ward 2 resident

From: [Hugo Bruggeman PhD](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Full elimination of parking minimums will give the City renewed vitality
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:36:48 AM

Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council,

As a St. Paul resident I support the proposed ordinance to fully eliminate parking minimums (Option 2). I thank you for the work you have put into this important update of the city's code.

Full elimination of parking minimums will give the city renewed vitality. The City and its people really need this vitality to better meet the existing and future challenges. Affordable housing, public health, climate change, and pedestrian & cyclist safety are among these challenges and all of them stand to benefit from full elimination of parking minimums.

Please support Option 2!

Thank you,

Hugo Bruggeman
1923 Princeton Avenue
St. Paul
h.bruggeman@fastmail.com

From: [Ian Buck](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: In support of eliminating parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:52:44 AM

Hello city councilmembers,

I am writing to encourage you to fully eliminate parking minimums in St Paul. Requiring developers to set aside a certain amount of space for storing cars (no matter how low that requirement is) runs contrary to our stated climate goals. Land use is an integral piece in the puzzle of reducing carbon emissions; building walkable neighborhoods and discouraging car travel can only be achieved if we stop dedicating so much space to automobiles and start building denser.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ian R Buck
Ward 1
514 Thomas Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103

From: [Joseph Kendrick](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:04:34 AM

Resending because I think I got the email wrong- apologies if this is a duplicate.

Hi Mitra (or whoever reads these emails),

Please fully eliminate parking minimums. We all know it will help promote affordability and sustainability of the city. No silly half measures, please, full elimination is necessary.

Thanks,
Joe

From: [Troy Mangan](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Off street parking mandates
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:47:32 AM

I'm writing to urge you to eliminate off street parking mandates, for the sake of rental affordability, environmental sustainability, and regulatory simplification.

Thank you.
Troy Mangan
360 Spring Street Apt 244
Saint Paul, MN 55102

From: [Joan Pasiuk](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: parking -- full elimination please
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:28:48 AM

The parking study gives Saint Paul huge opportunity to leap forward. Please vote for full elimination of parking minimums. Shifting our focus from car storage to equitable and climate supportive land use is the only worthy option. We must continue to make urban development more progressive and affordable. We must continue to incentivize, even require, alternatives to driving. For all the effort in previous years we have tip-toed around being "anti-car" there is no more time for tender talk. With the U.N. IPCC report we are all called to be honest, bold, courageous. Please do this.

Joan Pasiuk
Saint Paul resident

Joan Pasiuk

We are the raw materials of the tipping point. *"There are tipping points in the human heart and the collective consciousness that could be just as sudden and big as any in the earth system. Just because the IPCC isn't charged with documenting them does not mean they don't exist, latent, stirring to life."* Dr. Elizabeth Sawin

From: [Triss Prevost](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Parking Minimum
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:59:51 AM

My name is Tristan and I live in Macgrovland. I want you to remove parking minimums please

From: [Wes Burdine](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:47:55 AM

Hello,

I write to you as a resident and owner of a bar in Midway. I want to strongly urge the city to get rid of parking minimums in new construction. I think having centralized hubs for parking makes sense, but forcing every new construction to have a minimum amount of parking is detrimental to the growth of the city but more importantly betrays the absolute urgent need to combat climate change.

Thank you

Wes Burdine

Black Hart of Saint Paul

From: [Amanda Willis](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:58:30 AM

I support removing all parking minimums in the city of St. Paul

1727 Race St.
55116

Amanda Willis

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paige Bosler](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Parking Minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:39:25 PM

Hey City Council!

Parking minimums are ridiculous and I hope you do not put them in place in St. Paul. I really enjoy that my city is at least mostly walkable. I also think that by not having parking minimums, we maintain affordability in the city!

also, we're not a suburb. not everyone has a car. plus parking spots are ugly.

Thanks.
Paige Bosler
2023 Upper St Dennis Rd
St Paul, MN

From: [Adam Jarvi](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Parking Minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:25:09 AM

Dear Councilmembers,

As both a resident and small business owner in Ward 4, I am writing to ask that you all support the full elimination of parking minimums throughout the city.

It's time we prioritize people over cars. Let's make our city a model for walkable living. The time to act is now.

Thank you,
Adam Jarvi
417 Herschel Street

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joshua Houdek](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Parking Requirements
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:27:28 AM

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter strongly supports eliminating minimum parking requirements citywide in Saint Paul. Vehicle parking has a significant impact on local neighborhoods, how much we drive, air pollution and climate. The Saint Paul Planning Commission recommended this policy change, informed by the City's recent parking study.

The future livability, sustainability, and vitality of Minnesota's Capital City depends on people, not cars and trucks. Saint Paul will benefit from an expanded tax base by dedicating more space to businesses and residences, instead of expensive off street parking that induces more driving in a climate crisis that we are all experiencing.

Saint Paul's Climate Action and Resilience Plan calls for achieving carbon neutrality citywide. The only way to get there is to not incentivize driving. Eliminating parking minimums is an essential step.

Thanks for your consideration,

Joshua Houdek
Senior Program Manager, Land Use and Transportation
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
2300 Myrtle Ave, Suite 260, Saint Paul, MN 55114
Main: 612-659-9124 Direct: 612-259-2447
sierraclub.org/mn

www.sierraclub.org/minnesota



From: [Melissa Wenzel](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-STPaul\)](#)
Subject: Please eliminate parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:49:28 AM

Dear City Council members,

I am a board member of Sustain Saint Paul, representing Ward 7, and I imagine you've already read testimony from fellow board members already, so I shall be brief: this is a topic that is supported by sustainability advocates and developers alike, as we both want to see the market and user need indicate how many parking spots are needed. This is to help with affordable housing options, spur more sustainable transit options (can't wait for the Gold and Rush Line Corridors to be built!), and also allow us to dedicate land that goes to storing a car to more housing, more retail, more businesses, more parks, more human-centric purposes!

Furthermore, Metro Transit is already anticipating it! They are sharing their most recent success: **"New transit pass program for apartment, condo dwellers rolling out this summer"**

Fitness room, check. Community room, check. Transit passes, check? Yes, some apartment and condominium owners will soon add passes that allow residents to ride transit for free to their list of amenities.

After a successful 2019 pilot, Metro Transit is hoping to grow the Residential Pass program to include more multi-family properties located on transit lines. The hope is to make passes available to residents in up to 20 properties this year, and to continue expanding the program in the future.

"Our main amenities are a party room, a theater room and fitness room. But I would say the Residential Pass would be a top one for me. It's the most valuable," said Randi Myhre, who lives at Oaks Station Place, near the Blue Line's 46th Street Station.

...

Residential Passes not only benefit residents like Myhre but can be a way for builders and property owners to avoid building costly parking spaces. Property owners pay \$14 a month to buy passes for each building unit; a typical parking stall can cost up to \$20,000.

You can read more here: https://www.metrotransit.org/new-transit-pass-program-for-apartment-condo-dwellers-rolling-out-this-summer?fbclid=IwAR3E397rVG6WKwBxjLCbmzX220YeInnerJKYPLmyF1H_DQaonSsNtipB9FI

In areas with dense populations and multiple community transit options, many people prefer to not drive a car. Even in less dense areas with no transit options within a mile of my house, people still would rather not drive a car, like me.

Lastly, we cannot take baby steps to undo the harm we've caused to our planet with our human-driven climate change impacts. Even though eliminating parking minimums now won't change the status quo for development for many years, it would allow developments to "right size" the parking needs based on the project and not some archaic formula that makes all developers fit to similar standards.

From: [Christina Morrison](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Strong support for elimination of parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:01:36 AM

Please eliminate all parking minimums from our zoning code. Surface parking lots are a blight that reduce density, stifle walkability and personal safety, and make our neighborhoods uglier. Off-street parking is taxed at a lower rate than commercial usable floor area, putting the cost and burden of car storage on all residents and businesses, and increasing the cost of housing (whether in surface or ramp form) for everyone, whether each household has a car or not. Saint Paul needs to move swiftly to building spaces focused on people, not cars.

We need more housing, more businesses, more green space, and more vibrant, safe, walkable places. We need far, far less car storage.

Thanks for your consideration,
Christina Morrison
2110 Highland Parkway

From: [Pat Thompson](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-STPaul\)](#)
Subject: Support for eliminating parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:26:51 AM

Dear City Council members,

I support eliminating all parking minimums in Saint Paul. As you know, we are in a worldwide climate emergency and Saint Paul has adopted a Climate Action and Resilience Plan.

Decreasing reliance on large motorized vehicles (often single-occupancy) of all kinds, even EVs, and their storage is low-hanging fruit in our city's effort to reach our climate goals.

We have to start by eliminating parking minimums. There is no other way.

If we want to incentivize developers to do more when it comes to how much parking they build, City Council can pass policies to give them things they want *and* that serve our climate goals, such as more floor area ratio to increase denser uses.

Maintaining a complex set of parking requirements in order to maintain an illusion of leverage is not the way to go.

—
Pat Thompson
Ward 4

From: [Robyn Bernardy](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Support for full elimination of parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:44:26 PM

Council Members,

As a resident of St. Paul, I urge you to support the full elimination of parking minimums.

Eliminating parking minimums will result in removing the requirement to build and subsidize off-street parking, allowing for development of housing that people can afford. I believe we can leave it up to developers and their lenders to determine if off-street parking is needed for a project and its residents.

Thank you,
Robyn Bernardy
1617 Bohland Ave

From: [Kevin Gallatin](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\); #CI-StPaul_Ward3](#)
Subject: Support for full elimination of parking minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:54:29 AM

Council President Brendmoen and Council Members,

As a resident of Saint Paul I urge you to support the full elimination of parking minimums. As a city we are facing a number of crises that even full removal will only modestly address, so this is not a time for half measures.

We need to allow housing that people can afford, and a good start is to remove the requirement to build and subsidize off-street parking at up to \$21,500 per space (national average for structured parking). Developers and their lenders are better equipped than the city to evaluate the conditions in the immediate area of a project and provide what their customers & residents need. Experience shows they can and do provide parking even in the absence of requirements. Creating a consistent process across the city is not only more efficient for city staff, but will help residents and developers understand Saint Paul's policies without navigating a patchwork of regulations and divisive hearings.

In recent years the council has wisely upzoned commercial corridors and neighborhood nodes, and supported regional efforts to promote BRT. Eliminating parking minimums will capitalize on those efforts by encouraging development that is not only less expensive, but closer together, less dependent on private automobiles, and less carbon intensive. I encourage you to act boldly on behalf of Saint Paul and the future of our climate.

Thanks,
Kevin Gallatin
1822 Highland Pkwy
612-239-2320

From: [Ben Swanson-Hysell](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Support Full Elimination of Parking Minimums
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:49:41 AM

Hi St. Paul City Council Members,

I am writing in support of the full elimination of parking minimums. I hope you will support this important deprioritization of cars to help make our city safer and more environmentally just. This is the time for bold action.

Thanks,
Ben Swanson-Hysell
1315 Portland Ave, St Paul, MN 55104