

**From:** Michaela Ahern <michaela.ahern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:14 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Support for the elimination of parking minimums

Hello,  
I would like to voice my support for the elimination of parking minimums in St. Paul.

Michaela Ahern  
864 St Paul Ave  
St Paul, MN 55116

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**From:** Karen Allen <kvallen01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Eliminate Parking Minimums

Hello, My name is Karen Allen, I am a resident at 1315 Minnehaha Ave W, Saint Paul and the property owner of 953/955 Iglehart Ave. I am writing in support of the option to fully eliminate parking minimums in our city.

I recognize that reducing or eliminating parking minimums for Saint Paul would be a big change for the city and especially a change in priorities. For the past several decades, promoting abundant parking has been a development priority and we are now seeing the negative effects of promoting cars over other modes of transportation.

The planning staff has put in tremendous effort to study this issue and their effort is highly appreciated. Although it is a complicated system right now, the solution is clear.

I believe full elimination of parking minimums helps everyone — renters, homeowners, small business owners, developers, and city planning staff. Option 2 is the best option for the following reasons:

- Parking minimums make housing expensive.
- Economic vitality depends increasingly on people, not cars.
- Option 2 is more equitable for neighborhoods and residents.
- We are facing a climate crisis because we incentivize driving - now is the time to ease this incentive by removing the parking requirements.

- Option 1 retains the parking requirements bureaucracy, which can hamper economic opportunities especially for historically disenfranchised communities and is a burden on city resources.
- The core of our city was designed and built before the widespread adoption of cars and retroactive parking minimums have been detrimental to the best use of these areas.

I hope you will support Option 2- full elimination, for the good of our residents and their city.

Thank you,  
Karen Allen, 651-315-2232

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Karen Allen  
[LinkedIn](#)  
651-315-2262

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**From:** Zach Allen <z.allen16@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Eliminate Parking Minimums

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

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**From:** GALEN BENSHOOF <+12063274902>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:14 AM  
**To:** CouncilHearing\_English (CI-StPaul) <[CouncilHearing\\_English@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:CouncilHearing_English@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (1 minute and 13 seconds)

Hi, my name is Galen BENSHOOF. I live at 1068 Laurel Ave. in Saint Paul. My cell phone number is 206-327-4902. I'm calling today to strongly urged the Council to support full and elimination of parking requirements. I believe full elimination is the most important thing to do right now for a number of different reasons. Parking minimums make housing in our city more expensive, and so we've given up the cost of housing for far too many people, and means that folks are not able to afford a place to live and we need to do what we can to make housing more affordable and more accessible. Another reason is the climate crisis that we're in right now. Making sure that people have as much access and the ease of alternative modes of transit is more important now than ever come, especially with the climate report that came out this week. I want to strongly urge you to come move to eliminate parking minimum requirements across the city. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [GALEN BENSHOOF](#).

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**From:** Paige Bosler <[paigelbosler@gmail.com](mailto:paigelbosler@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:39 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <[Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <[CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Parking Minimums

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

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**From:** bev.brending@gmail.com <[bev.brending@gmail.com](mailto:bev.brending@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:32 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <[Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Hold off on changing parking requirements

With the move to electric vehicles it is, in my opinion highly relevant to prioritize plans for this new development. I have not read anything that addresses the requirements of these vehicles yet this, not bicycles is our future.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Jeanne <jfrannie@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 6:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking in St. Paul

I think it would be a big mistake to not have builders supply parking.

We have enough parking problems St. Paul without adding to the problems by not requiring builders to provide parking. Can you imagine a snow emergency with more cars on the street? It is bad enough already.

In addition, parking on Cleveland Ave and Ford Parkway is almost impossible even though the mix use buildings on Cleveland did supply parking.  
Jeanne Coonan

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**From:** Cambray Crozier <cambraycrozier@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:34 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking Minimums

To the Saint Paul City Council,

I am a Saint Paul resident, a constituent, and a climate change researcher with the University of Cambridge.

I am proud to point to the city's (far too brief) road closures during the pandemic, which serve as an excellent example of intentional traffic evaporation policy. I applaud Mayor Carter, and each of you, in your roles in a city that accomplished this. You placed yourselves on the world stage in this policy leadership.

To that end:

**Please, rise up as leaders to eliminate parking minimums.**

Following the IPCC report, we have no future in a built environment designed around cars - we must adapt, and quickly. This rule is archaic and not supported by the reality of what is required of us as people to survive, mitigate what we still can of the climate crisis, and have any hope to thrive.

We are already behind, and **I expect this city council to do so much more** - for us, and for the children of this community - parking minimums are, as the term indicates, the MINIMUM policy change we should be making immediately. Parisian Mayor Hidalgo's Plan Vélo and Ville du Quart D'Heure plans should be our Saint Paul goal - for the future we need, for the community we want, and for our survival, we must think about a life without cars.

Today's babies (mine is only 6 months old) will only be ten years old when we pass the "point of no return" in which mitigation will no longer be possible. Please take this into deep consideration with this vote, and all votes ahead.

With anguish, passion, and hope,

Cambray Crozier  
Constituent

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**From:** Chelsea DeArmond <chelseadearmond@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:07 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Ord 21-27

Dear Council Members,

As an East Side resident (Ward 7) and small business owner, I support Option 2: Full Elimination of the parking minimum, for all the reasons described in the Sustain Saint Paul letter, and for the following additional reasons as an East Sider.

More than one third of Saint Paul is covered in pavement. The cost of this is felt in dollars and degrees, which we increasingly cannot afford. Deindustrialization has left a surplus of vacant, neglected, and/or underused parking lots on the East Side of Saint Paul, which contribute to urban heat island effects and makes our neighborhoods less accessible to walkers, rollers, and bikers. Eliminating the parking minimum would create infill opportunities for much-needed housing and urban canopy.

The negative impact of impervious surfaces to water quality and drainage is another important consideration as we face strains on existing water infrastructure due to increasingly extreme weather patterns.

On a personal note, the parking minimum requirement was an unpleasant surprise for our small business when we purchased our first building for our repair shop along the future Rush Line route earlier this year. Maintaining the required minimum number of parking spaces was more than we needed, and applying for a variance is burdensome to me and the city.

Thank you to the staff who prepared the parking study and for addressing this important environmental justice issue for our city. Please vote for Option 2: Full Elimination.

Best Regards,  
Chelsea DeArmond  
Ward 7

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**From:** Katherine DuGarm <toastmasterkatherine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:19 AM  
**To:** CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Eliminate parking minimums

This comment is about minimum parking requirements in St. Paul. I ask that you eliminate required minimum spaces.

We are a city and cities function based on people not cars. There will be several benefits.

- Housing will be more affordable when space is used for people and not cars.
- Exhaust pollution is reduced in our neighborhoods when we focus on people (walking, biking, busing) and not cars.
- Public health is improved when people walk and not drive. I am fortunate to live in an area with services in a 15 minute walk. Every day I can find a reason to walk.

Thank you,

Katherine DuGarm  
1142 Norbert Lane

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**From:** jackfei@aol.com <jackfei@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 10:34 PM  
**To:** CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Elimination of Parking Minimums

I'd like all parking minimums to be eliminated. It's an important step to accomplish city goals to reduce vehicle miles traveled. It will help reduce the hidden cost of the mandate and allow free market forces handle the number of spaces to be provided. Most importantly, it saves city staff time and makes St Paul more competitive with Minneapolis.

Jack Fei  
1359 Sargent Ave  
St Paul, Minnesota  
55105

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**From:** Spencer Higgins <spencer.h.higgins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:38 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking Minimums

Good evening,

I write to let you know that parking minimums are stupid, and they should be eliminated. Cities are for people, not cars.

Best,  
Spencer Higgins  
Highland Park Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Joshua Houdek <joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking Requirements

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](http://sierraclub.org/mn)

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**From:** William Jones <willpjones3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** End parking minimums in St. Paul

Dear Council,

As a homeowner, bike and transit rider, and walker, I urge you to end parking minimums in St. Paul. This will make housing more affordable, reduce car traffic and fossil fuel consumption, and increase business for local stores and restaurants.

I hope you will vote for Option 2.

Thanks for your leadership,

Will Jones, Warwick St.

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**From:** Thomas Keeler <keelerthomasj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:01 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Please vote against Dixies

Too much traffic. People bring their cars and t will turn into Selby/Snelling

Yes I live in St Paul, on Goodrich

Tom

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**From:** Jonathan Kelly <jpkelly955@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:07 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking Minimums

Eliminating minimum parking requirements is a good idea, please support this common sense policy change.

Best,

Jon Kelly  
Ward 2

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Josh Kimball <josh.kimball@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Full elimination of parking minimums

Hello,

I understand there is a vote coming up on parking minimums in St Paul. Having read through the materials, I would like to voice my support for the option that includes a full elimination of parking minimums.

Thank you.

Josh Kimball  
Merriam Park

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**From:** BOSTON SCIENTIF <+16512537618>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:18 AM  
**To:** CouncilHearing\_English (CI-StPaul) <[CouncilHearing\\_English@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:CouncilHearing_English@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (2 minutes and 19 seconds)

Hi, my name is Elizabeth Lampert. My address is 654 Laurel Ave. in Saint Paul 55104. My telephone number is 651-253-7618. I am calling about the Grand Ave. rezoning at 695 Grand Ave. the current Dixie's building. I would like the City Council to vote against the rezoning of that project. While I support development on Grand Avenue, I don't support requiring variances for every building that goes up. People who are building this are trying to maximize their profit, which is understandable, but negatively impacts Grand Avenue. I think that's a reasonable sized building that falls within the parameters of current guidelines without rezoning, without asking for variances, is acceptable but this project is massive. It's a large scaled building that is out of proportion to the neighborhood and just creates a shadow on that block. The buildings that go right up against the sidewalk like that, nothing else matches. Then what will happen is everything around it will become something like that. It is just completely out of scale for that neighborhood. I think that this family who is selling this building or selling this and developing this property, rather, has a right to make a profit on their long term investment but not at the expense of the neighborhood and this project seems at the expense of the neighborhood. So that's my opinion, thank you.

You received a voice mail from [BOSTON SCIENTIF](#).

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**From:** Nick Stumo-Langer <[nickstumolanger@gmail.com](mailto:nickstumolanger@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:03 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <[Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Parking Minimums

Nick Stumo-Langer  
[www.linkedin.com/in/stumolanger](http://www.linkedin.com/in/stumolanger)

Hello Council President (& Staff),

I'm writing in support of eliminating parking minimums in the City of St. Paul. Freeing up options for developers to not spend more money on requiring costly parking spaces is great for dense growth in our City!

Thanks so much,  
Nick Stumo-Langer  
Como Resident  
55117

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Nick Stumo-Langer  
[www.linkedin.com/in/stumolanger](http://www.linkedin.com/in/stumolanger)

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**From:** Kevin Mencke <MENCKEK@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Highland Bridge Parking Minimums

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I would like to start this letter by stating I formerly resided for 30 years on Pinehurst Avenue in St. Paul. In 2020. We sold our home for a multitude of reasons, one of our major concerns was the future of our neighborhood's livability and quality of life. We now live in Washington County, however, many of our longtime friends and former neighbors are directly impacted by this development and by the decisions and recommendations of your group.

Let me start by stating the obvious. Anyone that has attempted to park or drive a motor vehicle in and around highland village knows two things. One, there is tremendous congestion at rush hour and two, parking is hard to find. If you listen to the "experts" from the sustain Saint Paul group who vilify the automobile's very existence. They'll tell you that motorized vehicles are the enemy of affordable housing and good development. I believe climate change is real and I also believe individual motorized transportation is not going away anytime soon. Go ahead and fund public transportation as much as you want. However, don't fall for the argument that by eliminating these parking spaces, somehow this is for the betterment of the area. What eliminating parking will do, is what it has always done. Push the parking demand to the nearby streets so that the homeowners in Highland Village get to deal with the noise, inconvenience, trash and other negative effects that they have been directly dealing with for years.

Additionally, have you performed a traffic study in Highland Village in the last five years or tried to commute through the intersection of Ford Parkway and Cleveland Ave between the times of 4 PM and 6 PM? The sustained traffic levels are impressive and will only increase in volume with this development. The good folks at sustain St. Paul will tell you that I am making their argument for them? However, individual motorized transportation is not going anywhere anytime soon. Traffic levels, parking and livability in this development and the surrounding neighborhood are all impacted by your decisions. Why do municipalities have codes and rules for these very issues? Because these issues are important and matter. Please don't deviate from your own rules that were established to allow proper and beneficial development for all.

The cost of housing and development is just that, the cost of housing and development. We may all be using public transportation more in the future, however, individual motorized vehicles in whatever form they take in the future are not going away as some would lead you to believe. Highland Village is already woefully deficient with too few parking spaces. This is a fact. Eliminating or reducing the parking requirements in this development can only exacerbate this issue. This impacts the homes and businesses that already border the development. Please consider these people as you consider the elimination of parking minimums.

Kevin Mencke  
Stillwater, MN

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**From:** The Muellers <noink@juno.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 12:14 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Minimum Parking

To All Saint Paul City Council Members and Mayor,

[Please,](#)

## Vote NO on Minimum Parking

Regards,  
M. A. Mueller  
1085 Hyacinth Avenue East  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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**From:** Elle N. <[thedandog002@gmail.com](mailto:thedandog002@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 11:40 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_ParkingStudy <[ParkingStudy@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ParkingStudy@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Eliminate parking minimums!

Hi, I am a resident of St Paul's Highland Park neighborhood, and I am someone who firmly believes in walkable places, and as such, I think buildings should not have minimum parking requirements, as it will lead to more space that can be used for more housing and potentially more park space.

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**From:** June Ofstedal <jeofstedal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:20 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Opposition to file #21-271-810 695 Grand Rezoning

Dear St Paul City Council,

I'm writing to express some of my many concerns regarding the proposed 695 Grand Ave development. I've lived on St Albans between Summit and Grand for the past decade, and while I was initially happy to hear of a new multifamily residence in the Dixies lot, I have many reservations with this plan.

First, I fear that the scale of the project, and the number of units and new residents, is too large given the current parking and public transit infrastructure of the area. Through junior high and high school, and during my breaks from college, I relied on the 63 bus on Grand and the 65 bus up Dale to get home from school after club meetings, to visit friends, and to go to work. As much as I appreciate these busses, they run far too infrequently, and are far too prone to delays, to be considered reliable and attractive transportation options for residents of the new building. Using either of these lines to connect me to the Green Line to a job I had in downtown Minneapolis took between 45 minutes and an hour one way, while the drive was 15-20 minutes.

I realize that most residents and visitors of the proposed development would commute by car - a quick drive down St Albans between Summit and Grand shows that street parking is already usually full, and with street parking on both sides of St Albans, it can be difficult to even get down the street in the winter. Turning left onto Grand, or even going straight, can require several minutes' wait during rush hour.

I truly believe in the importance of multifamily/higher density residences, but I feel like the proposed development is motivated by profit, not by a genuine care for the neighborhood or for potential new residents. As a recent college graduate living at home for the time being, I am thrilled by the idea of more affordable housing in St Paul, and I would certainly welcome more young people, and people of more diverse socio-economic backgrounds, to the neighborhood. However, I've seen the proposed prices of these units, and of the underground parking spaces, and they're so high as to be prohibitive to many. I'm tired of hearing developers evoke the ideal of more walkable, accessible, diverse neighborhoods to justify projects motivated simply by profit.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope you will take my concerns into consideration.

June Ofstedal  
24 St. Albans St S #2

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**From:** melissa partin <mrpartin65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:17 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking maximums

I am writing to let you know that I am very much in favor of eliminating parking minimums.

This is important to me because I know that parking minimums make housing expensive and force us to prioritize housing cars over people.

I want our city to provide more affordable housing and to do more to make non-polluting modes of transport safe and convenient. This will require shifting to prioritizing people over car storage and finally eliminating parking minimums in our city.

Melissa Partin  
1943 Princeton Ave, St Paul, MN 55105

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**From:** T.G. Polachek <reagancommando@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Ord 21-27, Minimum Parking Vote, Please vote NO

Hello:

I live in Ward 5 in the North End Neighborhood of Saint Paul, MN. I urge the City Council to vote NO on the proposal to change the Minimum Parking Ordinance.

For the past 3 1/2 years I've been a pedestrian and bus rider after my last car died. The push for making people have to walk, bike or ride mass transit is short sighted. Often you'll hear me on the bus lamenting and saying I wish I had a car. Our summers and spring are very short, and inclement weather and frigid temperatures should be a reason to increase the number of people with cars instead of removing them from our city. Most people who rely on their cars tend to not be outside in bone chilling temperatures like bus riders tend to have to persevere thru.

The lawlessness not so much on the bus but near or at bus stops in Minneapolis and St Paul has made me avoid going to places I used to frequent in Minneapolis. I used to get a free Veterans Haircut at Empire Beauty School in Spring Lake Park, but to get there I have to go through North Mpls--No thank you. I've never seen a transit cop on my bus route 3A in years.

Is this the Hell you want for St Paul citizens and workers from the suburbs to endure on not being able to find a parking spot close to home or work? You should see all the "for sale signs," on houses in my neighborhood. You are pushing people out of St Paul.

I hear Rice Street is going to lose two lanes of traffic which I think is a colossal mistake as well. Many mom & pop stores and diners have disappeared due to the lockdown and uncertainty the State of Minnesota imposed upon us. Putting in 2 lanes and a seldom used middle lane will kill the last of the independent businesses in St Paul.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.

Have a nice day,

Tom Polachek  
1221 Arundel St #206  
St Paul MN 55117-4848

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**From:** Morgan Sleeper <zipmon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 11:08 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Public comment on parking minimums hearing

Hello!

My name is Morgan Sleeper and I live at 1751 Goodrich Ave, 55105. I'm writing to let you know that as a Saint Paul resident, **I fully support eliminating minimum parking requirements citywide**, and I hope that tomorrow you'll update the parking policy to do so!

Thank you for all that you do for our city!  
-Morgan

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**From:** James Slegers <james.slegers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 11:18 PM  
**To:** CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Support full elimination of parking minimums

Council Members,

I encourage you to support the full elimination option for parking minimums in St Paul. Parking minimums increase the cost of housing while diluting the value of land use. They encourage a built environment reliant on the use of personal vehicles for transportation, in a time when we are seeing an increasingly urgent need to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

Partial elimination, in my opinion, is a half-measure which seeks the same goal, but adds a significant burden in terms of staff time and enforcement. Full elimination of minimums reduces the burdens of parking requirements while also simplifying and reducing the work required of city staff and of developers.

I encourage you to support the full elimination of parking minimums

James Slegers  
183 S Chatsworth St #108

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**From:** Jake Southworth <jcsouthworth27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** in support of removing parking minimums

Hello Saint Paul City Council,

My name is Jake Southworth and I live at 868 Carroll Ave in the ward currently represented by Dai Thao. I think that removing mandates on parking is a good long term move. It aligns with the city's climate goals, it will reduce costs for housing and it satisfies the inner libertarian in all of us.

Ultimately, it will lead to modest change over a long period of time which gives us the luxury of being able to make it part way down that path and change our minds with limited societal costs. I don't believe we will have a change of heart. I believe this is a good framework for the city to build itself upon.

Thanks,  
Jake

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**From:** Melate Tibebe <melatetibebe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:26 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Parking minimums

Hello,

As a resident of St. Paul I support the repeal of parking minimums to help build a compact and walkable city.

your neighbor,  
Melate Tibebe

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Erin Thune <thuner28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 5:50 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Off Street Parking input

Hello,

I live at [56 Leech Street](#) in Saint Paul.

We are satisfied with the current permit parking only areas on our street - Leech Street, which is considered parking "Area 7".

Please do not change the hours of permit-only parking - keep it as is.

We would respectfully request that Parking Enforcement be monitoring our area, as the active construction site that has blocked some off-street parking on W 7th pushes construction worker and retail traffic into our neighborhood (Forbes, Leech, McBoal, Wilkin). Construction workers park in any available spot beginning early on weekday mornings, and on the weekends, retail parking is pushed into our permit-only parking.

Current signs are unclear - they say **No Event Parking** - and people think that if they're not going to an event at - say - XCel - that they're fine to park there. Signs with updated wording that is more clear would be appreciated/helpful. (Perhaps - PERMIT PARKING ONLY 6:00am - 8:00pm)

Thank you,  
Erin Thune  
56 Leech St.

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**From:** Rick Varco <Rick.Varco@seiuhcmn.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** OR 21-27 Agenda Item August 11 Public Comment

Public testimony on OR 21-27, proposed elimination of parking minimums:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota represents almost 50,000 healthcare workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and self-directed home care. Several thousand of our members live or work in St. Paul, including at major employers like United Hospital and HealthPartners clinics. On their behalf, and as a St. Paul resident, I write to support fully eliminating parking minimums as proposed in OR 21-27.

For our members who want to live in St. Paul, the cost of housing is too often a prohibitive barrier. For those who do live in St. Paul, housing consumes the largest and a continuously growing portion of their family budget. This is deeply frustrating because so much of the high cost of housing is the result of restrictive land use policies adopted by the City. The City could significantly reduce the cost of housing if they eliminated the requirement for workers to pay extra for parking spaces they do not want or need. The cost of unwanted parking spaces is bundled into the cost of housing and workers have no choice but to pay the extra charge. It is unfair to force low-wage workers who can't afford or don't want a car to pay extra for parking spaces.

In addition, our union is committed to climate justice and the fight against global warming. Climate justice requires that, at the very minimum, we stop forcing non-drivers to subsidize the cost of driving. Parking minimums require non-drivers to pay extra so that drivers have the convenience of abundant parking. Worse, parking minimums make transit friendly development less viable and force many to commute by car from the suburbs, because that is the only place they can find affordable housing. If you eliminate parking minimums, more of our members will be able to take transit to work. This will be cheaper for them and better for the planet.

Finally, we support full elimination of parking minimums over a system where the city would waive minimums in return for a commitment to meet certain goals. First, it is not good public policy to prevent people from doing a good thing. It is good that people don't have to build parking they don't want. We should not hold them hostage to other goals. Second, far too often, city land-use policy is highjacked by the immediate interests of adjacent residents and ignores broad public needs. Since city land-use regulation already drives so much of the high cost of housing, we should not add to the problem.

Please support the full elimination of parking minimums in OR 21-27 because it will lower housing costs for workers and help fight climate change.

Rick Varco  
Political Director

2265 Youngman Ave. #208  
St. Paul, MN 5516

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**From:** Kevin L. Vargas <kevinlouisvargas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:03 AM  
**To:** CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Minimum Parking Requirements Public Hearing Comments

Hello,

My name is Kevin Vargas. I live in Ward 3 at 1034 Cleveland Ave S, St Paul, MN 55116 and I'm writing to urge the City Council to fully eliminate parking minimums in Saint Paul. Following the UN Climate Report released on August 9th, it has become more abundantly clear that local governments must act quickly to mitigate the effects of climate change, which means building a society that relies less on individual cars and more on public transit. Parking minimum elimination takes us one step closer to that goal.

Thank you,  
Kevin

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Sent from my iPhone - please excuse brevity.

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**From:** envoss11@gmail.com <envoss11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:07 PM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Parking Minimums

Hello,

As a resident of St. Paul, I'm writing regarding the discussion of reducing or eliminating parking minimums. Please, please, please eliminate parking minimums. It's a uniquely terrible policy which manages to be both a disaster for the climate and anti-business as well. The notion that business and property owners are unable to make their own judgements on how much parking they might need without the benevolent wisdom of the city code guiding their actions is so self-evidently stupid that I'm honestly in disbelief that this even has to be debated.

Thank you,  
Eric Voss  
1332 Hewitt Avenue

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**From:** Zakary Yudhishthu <zyudhishthu@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:00 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Testimony for Public Hearing

To the St. Paul City Council,

My name is Zak Yudhishthu, and I'm a student in St. Paul. I'm writing to the council to voice my support for full elimination of parking minimums.

I'm relatively young and new to St. Paul, and I plan to be around here for a while. As part of the next generation of our city, I often think about what kind of city I hope to inherit from those who are running it today. Eliminating parking minimums is a necessary piece of building that city.

My biggest concern is climate. Cars are severe carbon emitters, and electric cars help — but not nearly enough. If the council is serious about making St. Paul sustainable, they need to stop forcing developers and business owners to subsidize parking, which incentivizes driving despite its many negative externalities.

We also need a city that people can afford to live in, and parking requirements worsen affordability. Listen to St. Paul city planner Tony Johnson; listen to planning commissioner William Lindeke, who has cited extensive research showing that parking requirements make rent higher. We can not keep bundling parking costs into rents.

I do not have a car to get me around St. Paul, nor do many of my fellow students, nor thousands of other St. Paulites. It is our choice whether we build St. Paul around cars. Today, the city council can choose to end a policy that subsidizes a dangerous, unsustainable form of transportation while increasing rents.

Sincerely,  
Zak Yudhishthu