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Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 12:13 AM

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Subject: please eliminate parking requirements

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Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members:

As you consider steps to promote affordability, the board of Bike Austin urges you to focus especially on one option that would cost nothing, and would make Austin greener and healthier as well as more affordable: putting an end to Austin's costly parking mandates.

Parking requirements are by now thoroughly discredited; cities around the world are abandoning them. The only question now is how long it will take for Austin to recognize and act upon this policy failure.

There are many reasons to end parking requirements now, rather than waiting until later. Here are three good ones:

1. **Parking requirements are not zoning regulations.** Under the Local Government Code, petition rights arise from changes to "zoning regulations and zoning district boundaries." Our City Code sets out zoning regulations in chapter 25-2. Parking requirements are set out in a separate chapter (25-6); changes to that chapter have never been construed as invoking petition rights, and are not within the scope of Judge Soifer's ruling.
2. **Parking requirements undermine Project Connect.** Every parking space built today will be generating car traffic for years to come, to the detriment of our transit system.
3. **We're in a climate emergency.** The City of Austin should be enabling and encouraging people to rely less on cars. Instead, by maintaining parking requirements, it is mandating that we continue our dependence on cars, even as the planet burns. This amounts to climate change denial.

We appreciate the Council's consideration of this input, and we hope this conversation can lead to meaningful progress toward greater affordability, equity, and environmental responsibility.

Best regards,

Chris Riley, Board President
Bike Austin

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