

# A NEW WAY TO THINK ABOUT PARKING AND MOBILITY

The City of San Jose is in the process of updating its **Parking and Transportation Demand Management Standards For New Development**. Learn more about the scope of the proposed changes, the timeline of the policy update, and more below.

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** San Jose is growing and needs to think ahead to accommodate this growth in a smart way. **Right now, the parking rules for developments in San Jose are putting cars over people** by requiring a minimum amount of off-street parking! This makes projects more expensive and, in turn, the cost of homes and rent! It's time to promote change.



## FIND OUT MORE

### READ ABOUT UPDATING PARKING POLICIES:

- [To Save the Planet, Kill Minimum Parking Mandates](#) - City Lab Bloomberg
- [San Jose Seeks to Modernize Parking Policy to Accelerate Climate Action](#) - Greenbelt Alliance
- [‘Tremendously overparked’ San Jose looks to shed decades-old parking requirements](#) - Mercury News
- [Berkeley overhauls off-street parking with an eye toward greener future](#) - Berkeleyside

### OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

- Subscribe for more information about the update by visiting [bit.ly/ParkingPolicy](https://bit.ly/ParkingPolicy).
- Look for upcoming public meetings and related information at [bit.ly/ParkingPolicy](https://bit.ly/ParkingPolicy).
- Attend upcoming community outreach workshops, starting in June 2021.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED POLICY?

The proposed changes are focused on updating off-street parking requirements for new developments including eliminating minimum parking requirements and expanding Transportation Demand Management (TDM) requirements for new development.

## WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THIS POLICY UPDATE SEEKS TO ADDRESS?

The Parking and TDM Regulations Update is focused on requirements and standards for off-street parking citywide.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THESE CHANGES?

- **Growing Impacts to San Jose's Transportation System:** San Jose's population is expected to grow by 40 percent in the next two decades, increasing the need to minimize the impacts of new residents, commuters and visitors on the city's transportation system.
- **Affordability:** Rightsizing parking requirements lowers the cost of construction and housing rents and ensures more efficient use of land and other community resources.
- **Enhanced Mobility:** By providing a series of TDM measures in new projects, more car dependent trips can be shifted to alternative modes such as walking, biking, transit, and shared modes.
- **Improved Public Health:** when trips are made by active modes, primarily trips made by walking and bicycling, harmful air pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are reduced.
- **Climate Friendly:** Shifting commuting and travel habits away from single-occupancy vehicle trips to other means of travel will help reduce the amount of GHG being generated by the transportation sector.

## WHAT ARE PARKING MINIMUMS?

Parking minimums are local laws that require private development projects which have businesses and residences to provide at least a certain number of off-street parking spaces. These requirements are one of the most significant factors shaping how our cities are built and laid out. Minimum parking requirements can be harmful by filling cities with unused and underutilized parking spaces that don't add value to the community.

They can push homes and businesses farther apart, worsen the walkability of neighborhoods, raise the cost of housing, and place a costly burden on development and new businesses. By eliminating parking minimums, there will still be parking—but there will be more flexibility to decide the “right size of parking”, and developers will no longer be forced to build more parking than is really needed.

## DOES THIS MEAN I WON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO PARK MY CAR?

The proposed policy will not eliminate existing parking, but will make it more flexible for new developments to determine the right amount of parking for their project.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT?

Transportation demand management (TDM) is a set of programs, infrastructure investments, and policies that make it easier for people to take transit, carpool, bike, or otherwise shift away from driving alone.

For example:

**If enacted, how would the TDM program work?** Developers would be expected to provide a series of TDM measures in their projects. Developers would choose from a list of TDM options aimed at reducing the number of vehicle trips to and from the development as well as demand for parking. On an ongoing basis, annual reporting would help to ensure commitment to the TDM measures agreed on by the City and developer.

## IS SAN JOSE THE FIRST PLACE TO DO THIS?

No. Cities such as Seattle, Minneapolis, and Berkeley have reformed their parking and TDM policies as a strategy to advance smart growth and affordability, improve mobility and accessibility, and reduce congestion and pollution.

## WHEN WILL THESE CHANGES GO INTO EFFECT?

The policy is anticipated to go to the City Council by the end of 2021.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

As part of the process, the City of San Jose, along with partners including Greenbelt Alliance, SPUR, Veggielution, and others are carrying out an engagement process with city residents, urbanizing neighborhoods, and developers throughout the year.