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Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 10:10 AM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: CC2035 Plan Testimony: reduce parking maximums to 0.6/1000 sqft

The latest draft of CC2035 would result in an estimated 1200 more parking stalls than allowed under current rules. This would be a big step in the wrong direction for our city.

Please support reducing parking maximums across the entire central city, to at most 0.6 stalls per 1000 square feet. And please justify parking minimums & maximums by showing how they will help achieve our mode share goals! Our central city cannot function well with more cars than it has today. Our focus needs to be on reducing car usage, not encouraging it.

In case you need a reminder of why parking is bad for the city, here are a few reasons that I can think of:

Parking encourages driving. Most cars burn fossil fuels and emit pollutants. We have enough trouble with our air quality today. Why would anyone want it to be worse?

Parking encourages driving. When we devote space to parking & driving, everything else has to be farther apart. When destinations are farther apart, it takes longer to get there by foot, by bike, or on a train or bus. And who likes walking through a parking lot? Nobody.

Parking encourages driving. If you drive in downtown or on Portland's highways, you might notice that sometimes they're full of other people in cars. If you find yourself inching along behind hundreds of other people's cars, this is inconvenient. Adding more parking to downtown will encourage more people to drive, making traffic worse. Why would anyone want this?

Parking encourages driving. Driving doesn't work for a growing city: cars take up too much space and are expensive to own. Everyone, even those who need to drive, is better off when more people take transit, ride a bike, or walk.

Parking takes up valuable space. We have a shortage of housing in this city. We need to make room for people, their pets, and their gardens. Parking spaces take up space we might have used for bedrooms, porches, picnic tables, or other cool things.

Parking is expensive, and lasts a long time. Most structured parking (i.e. garages) can't be cheaply re-purposed into more useful space. Anything we build today will be with us for a long time. And its costs will be with us for a long time, paid by tenants, permit holders, grocery shoppers, and sometimes even taxpayers.

Driverless cars, etc. If you believe the hype, maybe we won't need any parking in 10 years.

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Thanks for reading.

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