



ACTION GUIDE

How To Kick Off the Parking Revolution Where You Live

Strong communities are ending the mandates that waste productive land on automobile storage.

What are parking mandates?

Parking mandates (also known as parking minimums) are regulations that require every building to have a certain number of parking spaces.

What's wrong with them?

- **Land is a finite resource.** We should use the land in our towns to its highest and best use. Usually, a parking lot is not the most valuable use of our land.
- **Parking mandates stifle the flexibility and agency** of homeowners, developers and business owners.
- **Parking mandates drain public funds** through infrastructure and service costs — without generating taxable value to recoup the investment.

The Strong Towns approach:

Instead of implementing parking mandates, **local officials should let property owners decide how much parking to provide based on demand.** This bottom-up approach encourages more productive land use, reduces car dependency, and makes it easier to build walkable, prosperous neighborhoods.

Action Steps

1. **Educate your community** about the negative impacts of parking mandates.
2. **Advocate for changes in your local zoning codes** to eliminate parking mandates.
3. **Encourage local businesses to share parking spaces** to reduce the need for excess parking.
4. **Support developments that prioritize people over cars** to create more walkable, productive communities.

Places Across North America Are Ending Parking Mandates

See which communities near you have implemented parking reform on the [Parking Mandates Map](#), originally launched by Strong Towns and now co-hosted by the Parking Reform Network. Visit parkingreform.org to learn more.

Unlock your city's potential: Ending parking mandates will free up vast swaths of land that can be used more productively.

Check out our Local-Motive course “The Parking Revolution is Here. Is Your Community Ready to Sign On?” for a deeper dive. Visit academy.strongtowns.org to sign up.