

Austin Groups Call for Fairness in Mobility Options

Local leaders support reforming rules that advantage driving over other modes.

[DATE]: Austin organizations are calling for changes to city rules that mandate costly automobile infrastructure and encourage driving over transportation alternatives. For almost forty years, the City of Austin has mandated parking at almost all residences and businesses, including places that serve alcohol. This goes against the city's professed values around safety, sustainability, and traffic mitigation.

Austin has the chance to join over thirty other US cities that have already reformed this rule, including Bastrop TX, Raleigh NC, Portland OR, and Minneapolis MN. Austin has already made this change in two neighborhoods: Downtown and West Campus. Both examples show that parking is still important, and will likely be built, but the rule change allows for less parking. Parking requirements also complicate the permitting process, further slowing the pace of housing production.

The Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) aims to lower the share of single-occupant commuters to 50% by 2039, and we believe this change will help that cause. We strongly believe that ending the mandate for parking is an important step in Austin's mobility and affordability goals.

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