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Mayor and Council  
City of Nanaimo  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

**Subject: Support for Parking Reform**

It's heartening to hear about the strides your council is making in Nanaimo. The effort to eliminate mandatory parking mandates is a significant step towards creating a more resilient and financially sustainable city.

In the spirit of Strong Towns, we believe that cities should be built for people, not cars. As Donald Shoup, the world's foremost expert on parking issues, has shown, the current parking requirements are a copy of a copy of a copy, with no real understanding of why they are set where they are.

While vast amounts of free parking might seem like a benefit, it's not free at all. The cost is borne by everyone, and it's a cost that your city, especially in its current budgetary situation, can ill afford. Turning valuable land into parking lots is a loss of potential revenue. It's a decision that should not be made lightly, and certainly not mandated without due consideration of the consequences.

By removing the minimum parking requirement, you're not dictating how much parking to build or not. You're simply giving the public and private sectors the freedom to decide what they need or want. It's a move away from arbitrary and excessive requirements and towards a more flexible and responsive approach to city planning.

And let's be clear: the lack of a minimum does not create a maximum. Public and private property owners still have the ability to build the parking that they believe is required.

In conclusion, Strong Towns fully supports your efforts to reform parking requirements in Nanaimo. We believe this is a step in the right direction towards creating a city that is financially sustainable and resilient. We commend you for the work you've done in gathering support and lobbying for this change. We hope that the council recognizes the value of this reform and votes in favor of it.

Remember, change is often slow and incremental, but each step you take brings you closer to the vision of a Strong Town. Keep up the good work, and know that you have our full support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Charles Marohn  
President  
Strong Towns