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# Neighborhood Commercial Parking Program

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The purpose of the Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program (NCP) is to provide forgivable loans for improvements to off-street parking along University Avenue. The program is being piloted to help mitigate the proposed loss of on-street parking due to Central Corridor Light Rail Transit. The NCP will fund a limited number of projects that improve parking management, increase the amount and utilization of commercial parking, and/or encourage business and property owners to equitably share the use and costs of off-street parking.

## HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE FOR PARKING IMPROVEMENTS?

Competitive forgivable loans will be available for **up to \$25,000**, although larger loans will be considered where multiple businesses and/or property owners cooperate on a shared parking agreement and submit a single application.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

**All business and property owners with frontage on University Avenue** between Emerald Street and Rice Street in Saint Paul. Priority will be given to projects within the 11 critical areas identified in the recent report, [Mitigating the Loss of Parking in the Central Corridor](#).\*

## WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE?

Cost-effective projects that improve the safety, appearance, or utilization of parking, or increase the amount of off-street parking, including:

- **Driveways:** closing or installing curb cuts or driveways to improve access
- **Paving:** repairing, repaving and restriping the surface of parking lots or in an adjacent alley
- **Walls and Fences:** repairing, removing, or replacing fencing and retaining walls
- **Garages:** repairing or removing commercial garages
- **Security:** repairing or installing security lighting and installing rear windows or rear doors with windows.
- **Accessibility:** improving handicapped-accessible parking or installing rear entrances or ramps to improve accessibility.
- **Pedestrian Improvements:** walkways to improve the safety of pedestrians in and around the parking lots
- **Landscaping:** adding, improving, or replacing landscaping that makes off-street parking more efficient and attractive.
- **Storm Water Management:** installing storm water management improvements that improve drainage
- **Recycling and Garbage:** relocating, or centralizing recycling and refuse containers
- **Direct project costs:** required licenses and permits, legal fees, design work, and fees are eligible, but are limited to 10% of the project

## WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Operating costs
- Rent for parking spaces
- Costs of acquiring land for parking
- Improvements to paid commuter or "park-and-ride" lots
- Improvements to existing parking ramps or decks
- Building or replacing garages

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

Materials for forgivable loan applications will be developed in Fall 2009, with **applications due to the City in February 2010**. Projects should be completed in the 2010 construction season.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on this or other parking programs, please contact Craig Blakely, City of Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, at 651-266-6697, or [craig.blakely@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:craig.blakely@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

\*Report can be viewed at [www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=8599](http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=8599)

