

# CD-CPC-2025-00143

Chapter 88 Amendments – Parking and Loading

November 5, 2025

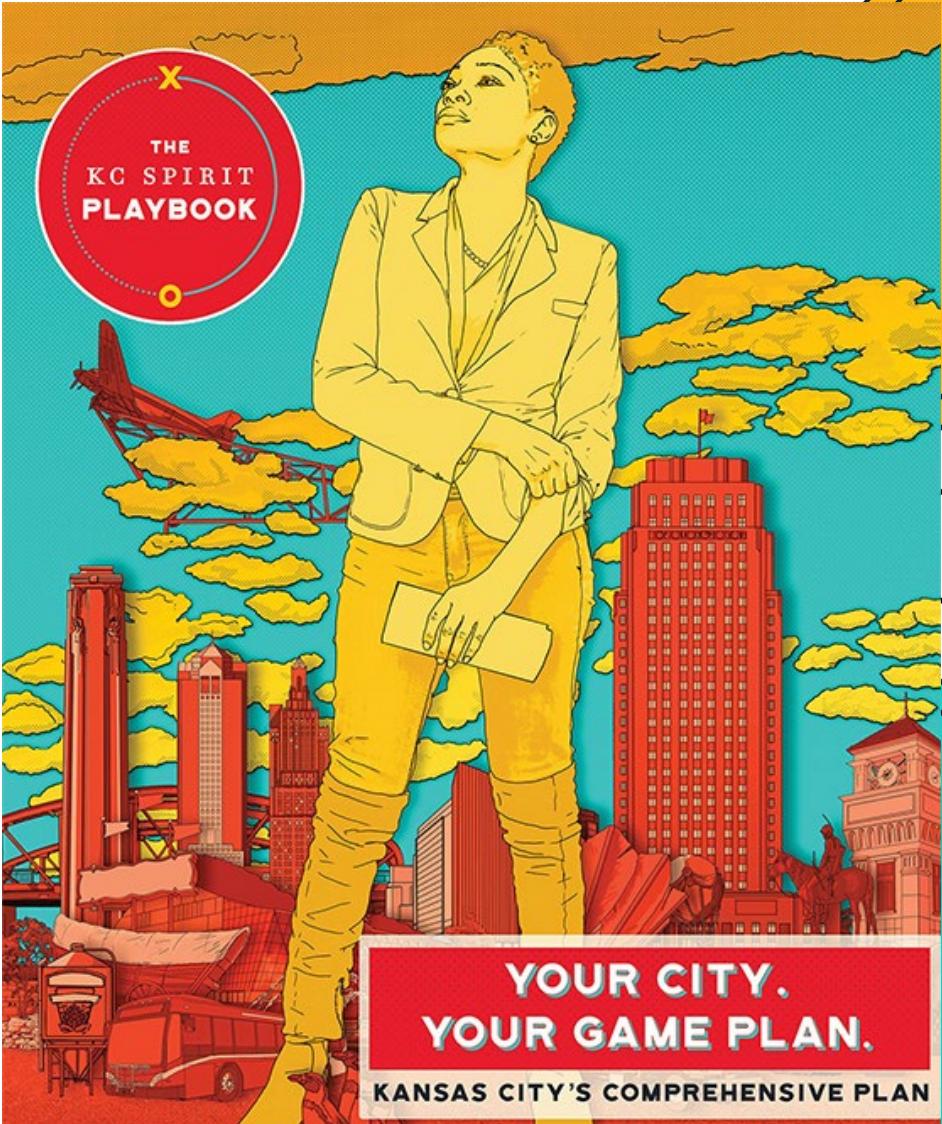
City Plan Commission



# Project Overview

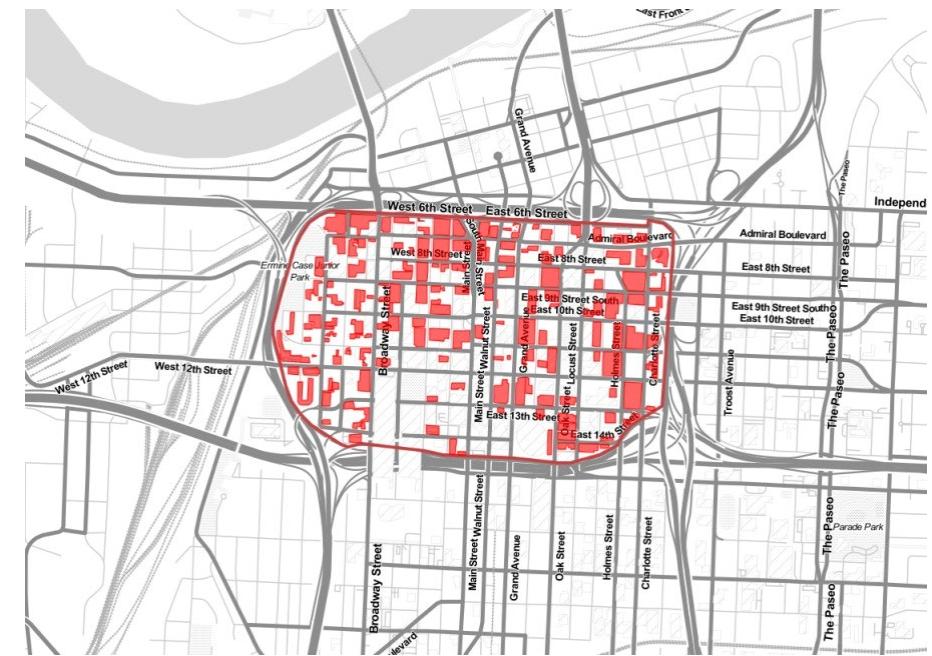
This on-call contract advances the KC Spirit Playbook by

- Identifying potential development code updates
- Researching best practices
- Writing new and updating existing development code text
- Supporting the adoption process



# Why are we doing this?

- Parking impacts every project and was among the most discussed items in the Playbook
- Parking needs vary from place to place, but are regulated by the same code
- This update aims to:
  - Right size parking requirements across the city
  - Eliminate problems that may prevent new businesses and development or redevelopment of existing property
  - Support flexible, thoughtful development aligned with community priorities



Current parking areas in downtown Kansas City

# Off-Street Parking

- **KC Spirit Playbook Major Themes**
  - Reduce excessive parking
  - Encourage alternative transportation
  - Pursue transit-oriented developments

Key Concepts (8)

Objectives (3)

Community Supported Actions (19)

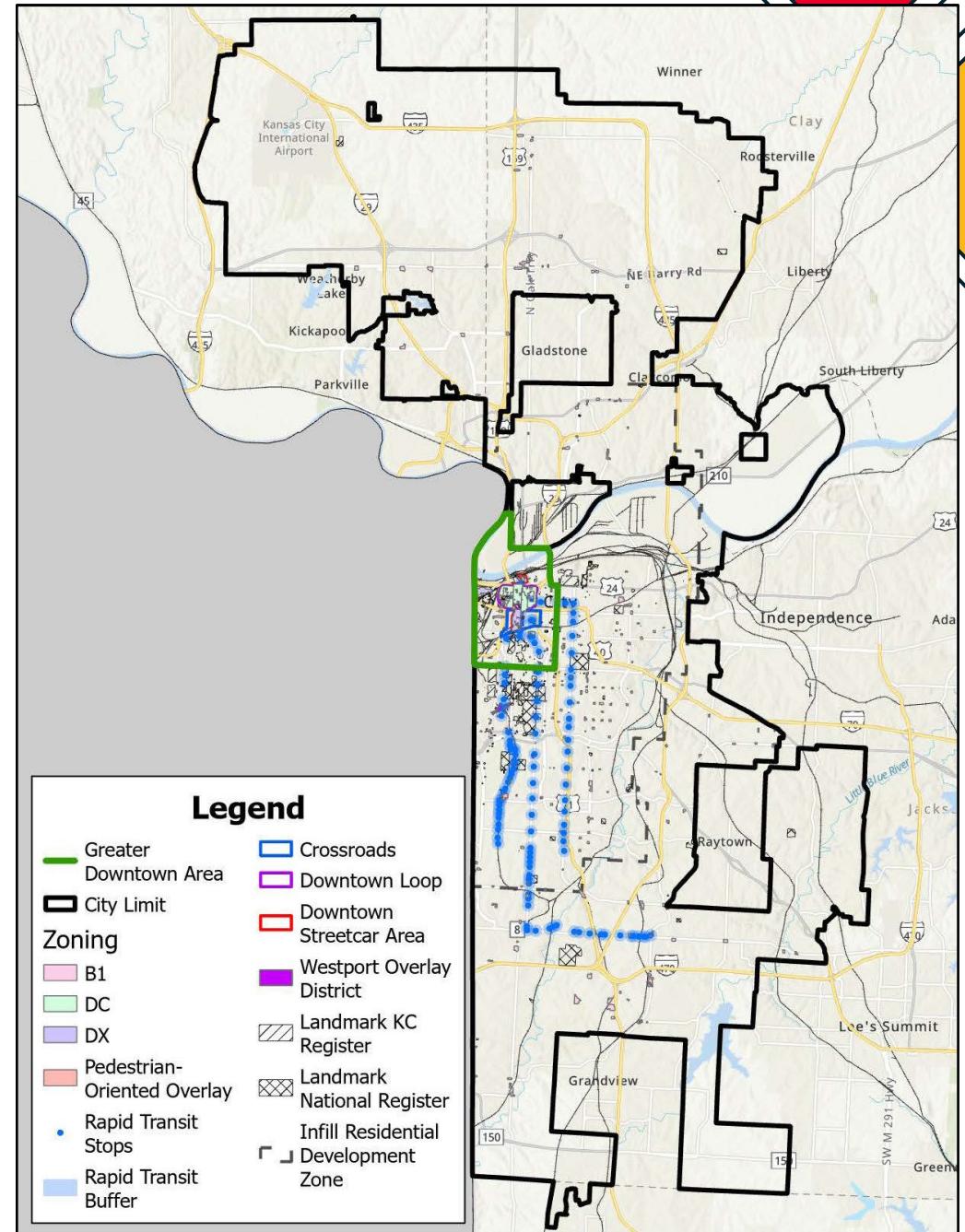
Measures of Success (7)

# Best Practices Report

- We analyzed how other cities regulate Off-Street Parking and identified strategies that we could adapt. We studied practices from:
  - Minneapolis, MN
  - Raleigh, NC
  - Overland Park, KS
  - Wichita, KS
  - Reno, NV
  - Des Moines, IA
  - Indianapolis, IN
  - Denver, CO
  - Austin, TX
  - Omaha, NE
- From these communities, we incorporated:
  - Excess Parking Amenities for spaces provided over the maximum
  - On-Street Parking Credits
  - Bicycle parking requirements based on use and location rather than vehicular parking requirements

# Ongoing Issues ID'ed

- Change of Use
- Parking Ratios
  - Right-sizing
  - Exceptions
- Alternative Parking
- Bicycle Parking



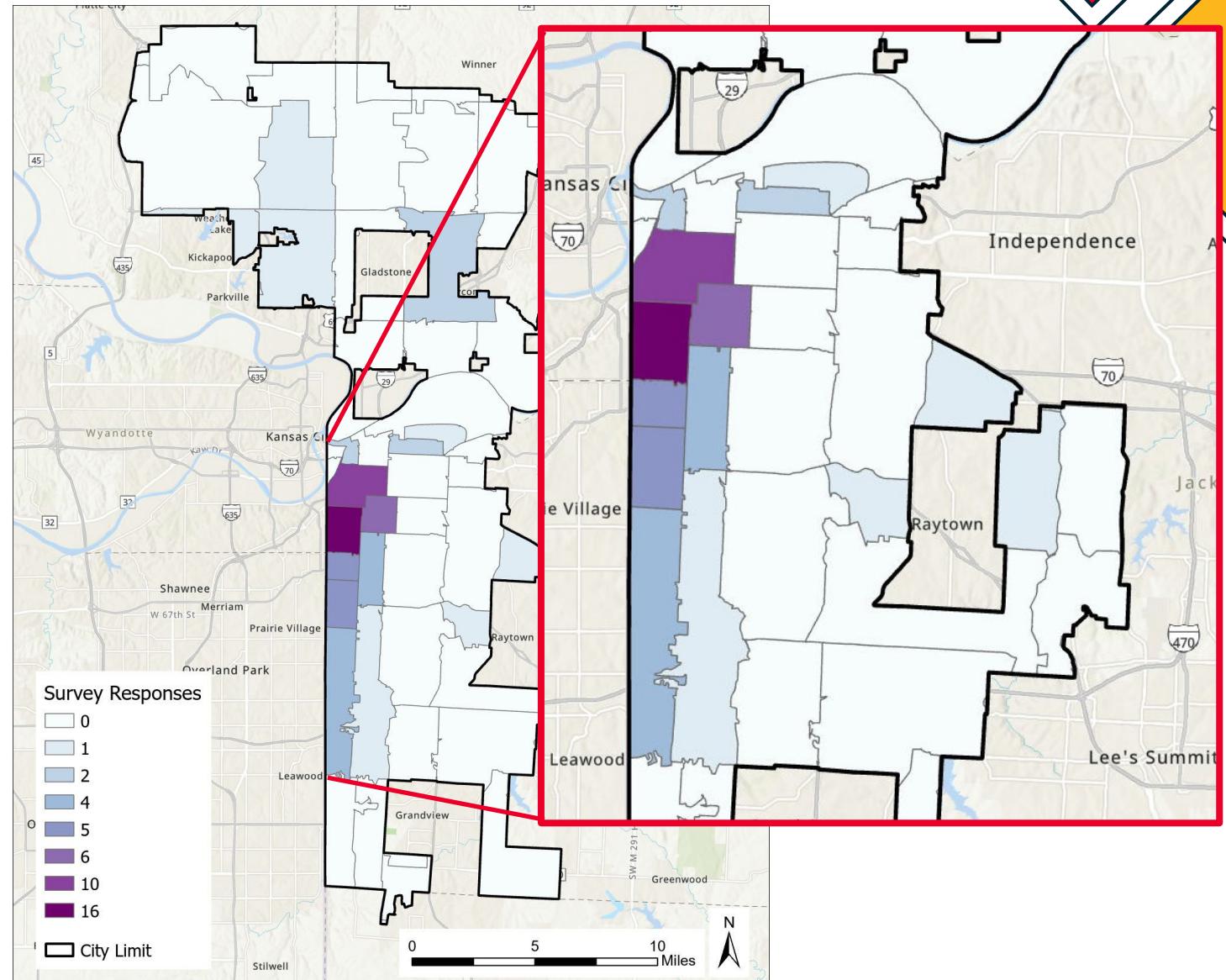
## Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Northland Chamber of Commerce
- BikeWalkKC
- South KC Alliance
- KC CID Alliance
- KC Small Developers Forum
- Midtown KC Now
- Downtown Council



# Community Survey

- Survey conducted through Speak Easy KC
- **85 responses** – included a mix of residents, business owners, and visitors
- Greatest number of responses from **64111** and **64108**



## What We Heard

- **Oversupply** of surface parking
- Parking **challenges are location specific**
- **Majority do not** experience parking challenges in their neighborhoods
- Parking minimums are a **barrier to development**
- **Safety, signage, and payment systems** need improvement
- Strong interest in **shared and centralized parking** strategies

# Proposed Parking Changes

## Current Requirements

- One set of minimums
- 16 different exemptions/reductions
- No maximums
- Complicated alternatives
- Bike parking requirements
- **18** sections

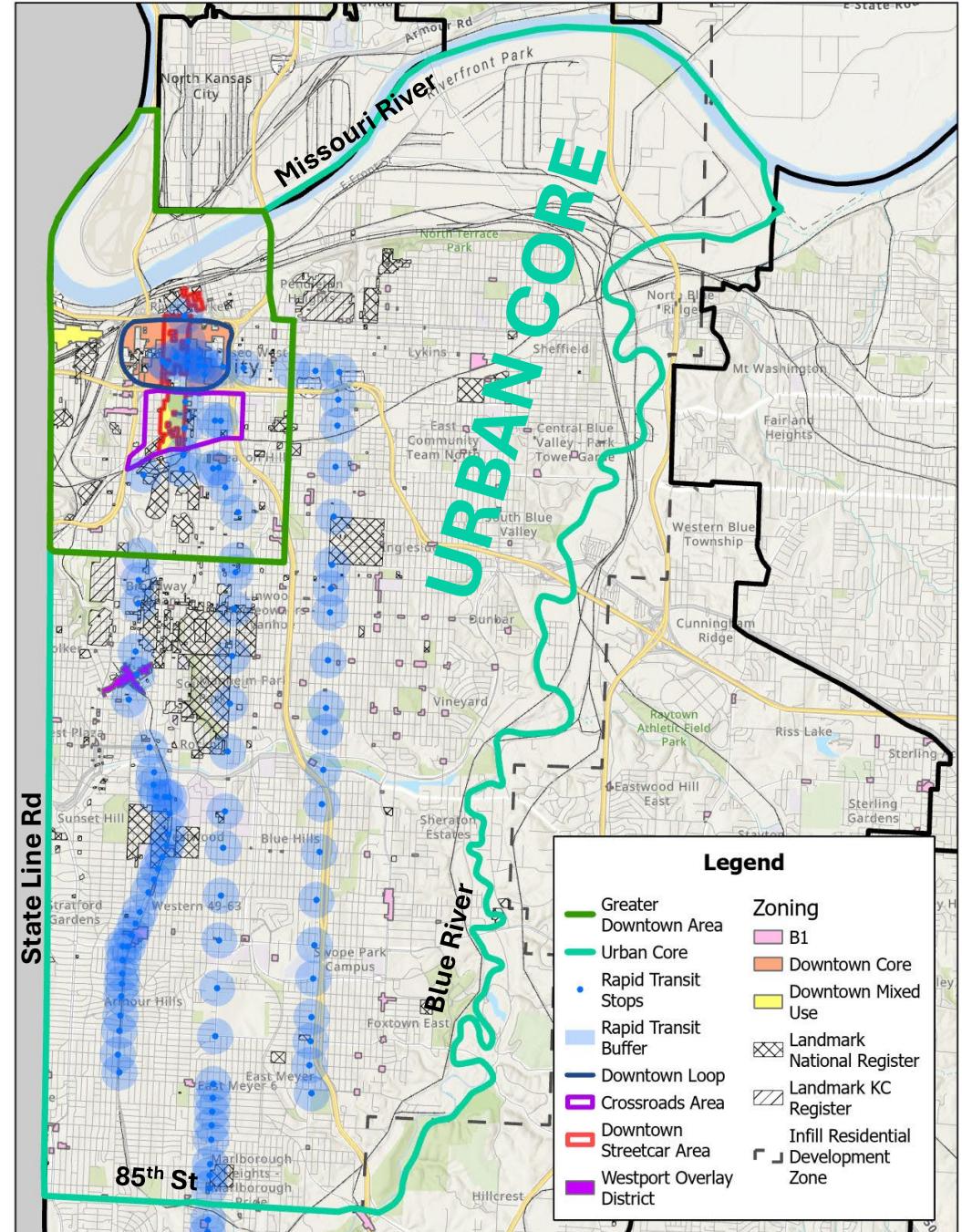
## Proposed Changes

- No minimums in “urban core”
- Set maximums citywide
- More alternatives and clearer language
- ADA adoption by reference
- Bike parking by best practice
- **7** sections

# Parking Minimums

Removing parking minimums in the urban core allows for:

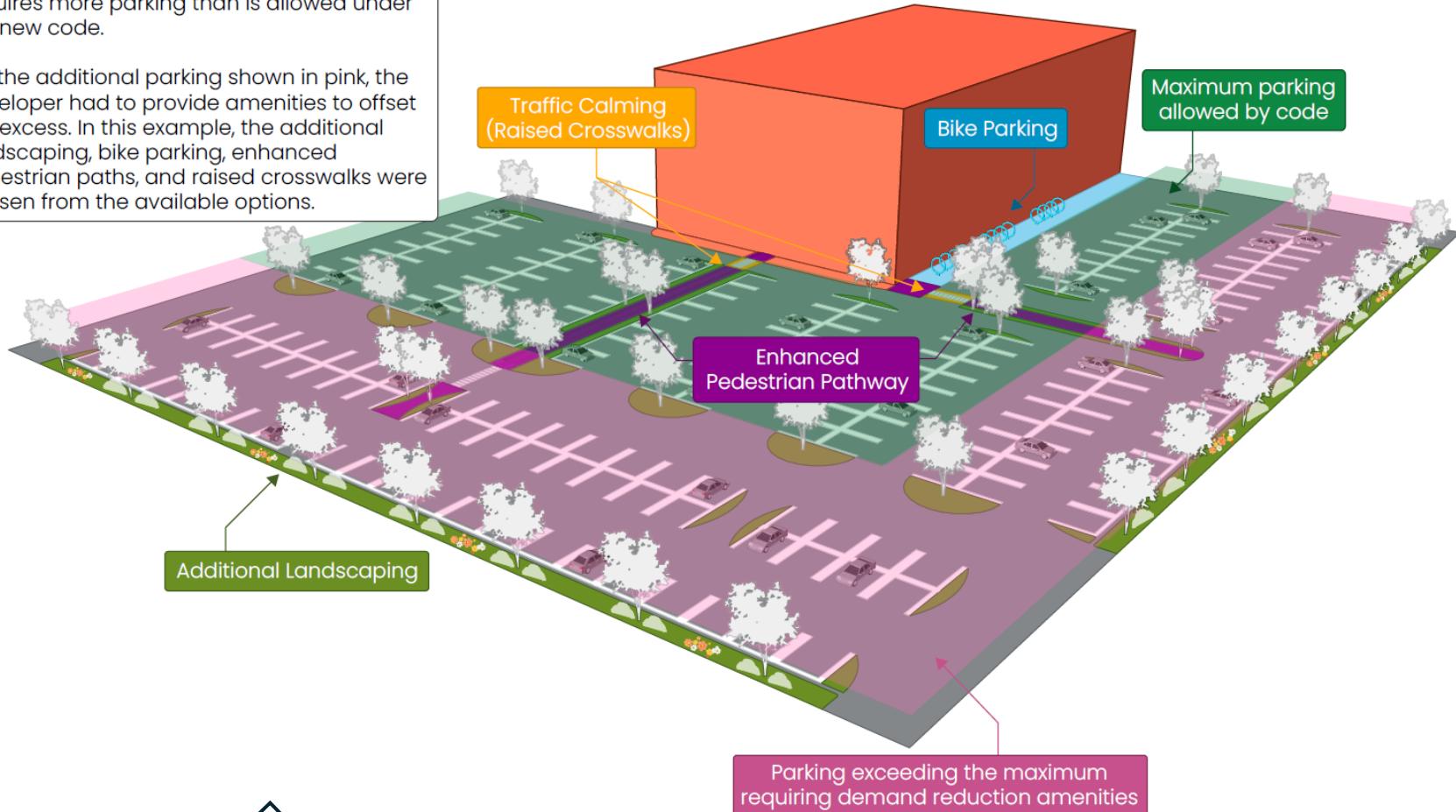
- Several reductions/exemptions to be removed
- Reduces issues with change of use/occupancy
- Aligns with Spirit Playbook goals



### Scenario 2

A new development outside of the urban core requires more parking than is allowed under the new code.

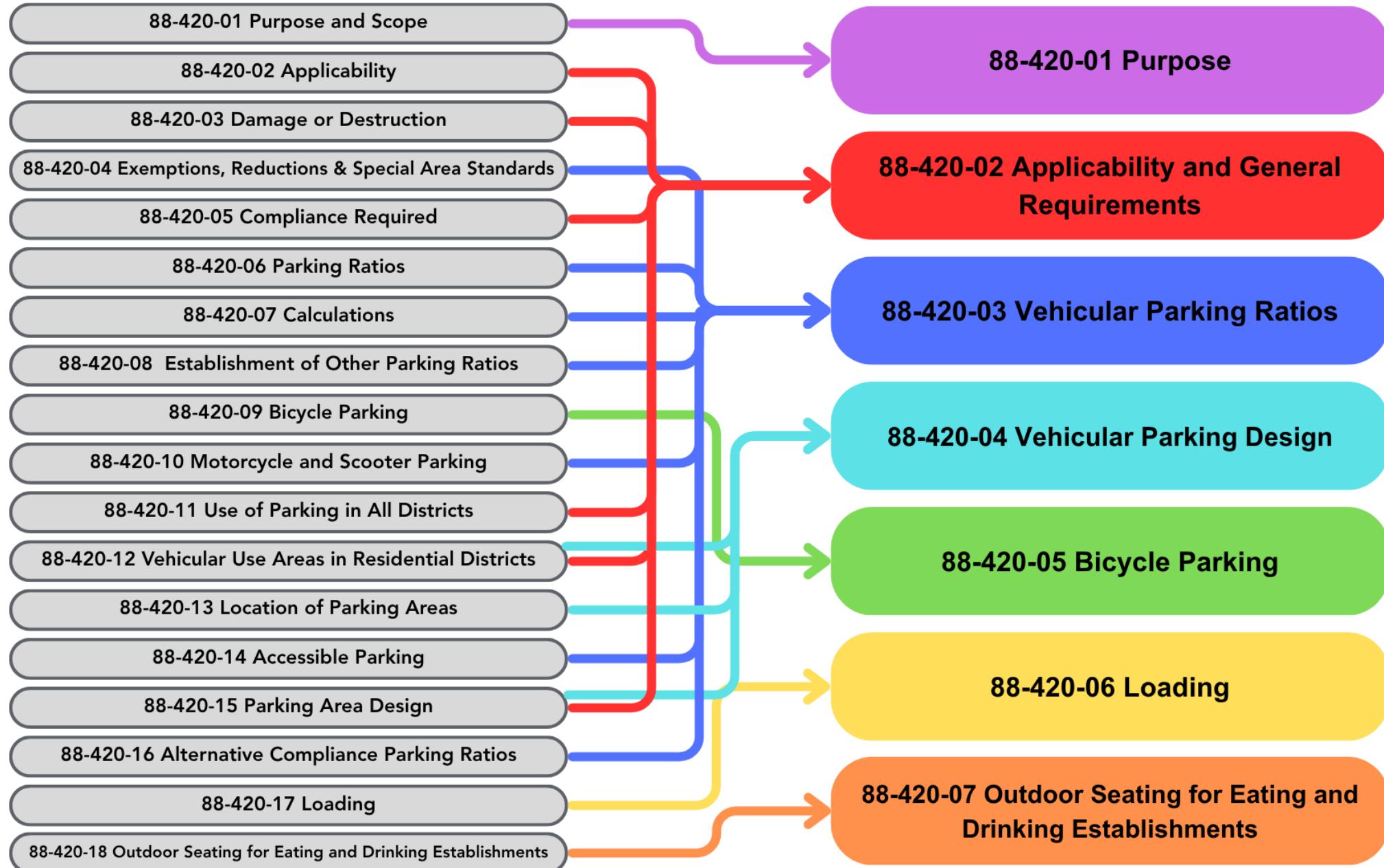
For the additional parking shown in pink, the developer had to provide amenities to offset the excess. In this example, the additional landscaping, bike parking, enhanced pedestrian paths, and raised crosswalks were chosen from the available options.



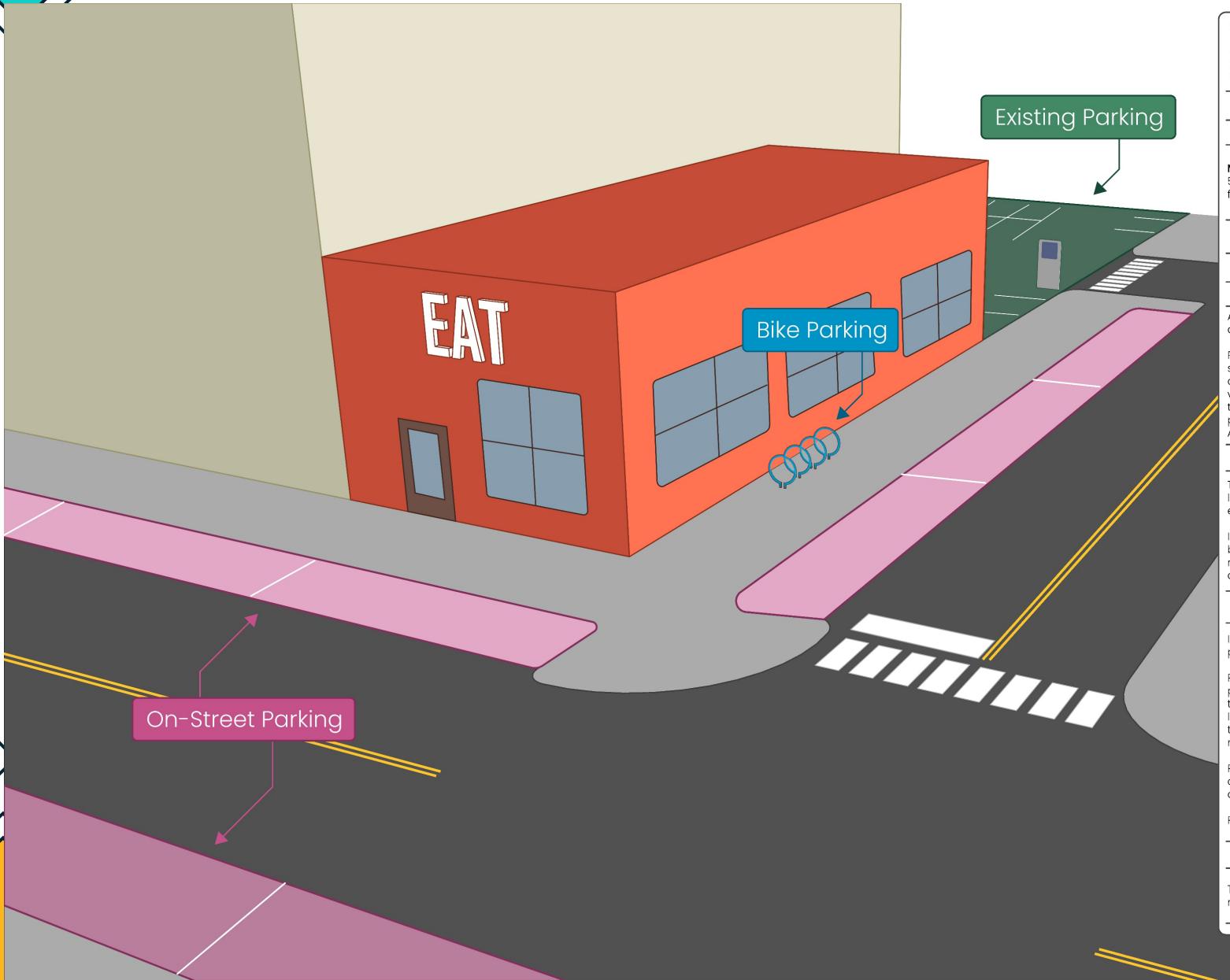
## Parking Maximums

- Prevent overparking
- Requires amenities to exceed maximums
- Two standards
  - Within the urban core
  - Everywhere else

# Simplify Requirements



# Change of Use



## Scenario 1

A 5,000 square-foot building is transitioning from a retail land use to a new restaurant. The property has 35 existing off-street parking spaces. Under the current parking code the owner would be required to provide 15 additional spaces.

Current Parking Code	Proposed Parking Code
<b>Parking Minimum</b>	
Minimum parking spaces required: 50 (15 additional spaces would be needed for the restaurant)	Minimum parking spaces required: If located in the urban core: none If outside of the urban core: 25 No additional spaces needed for the restaurant
If the business owner is unable to provide the additional required parking they have several options for relief from the requirement.	
Current Parking Code	Proposed Parking Code
<b>Variance</b>	
Apply for a variance - typical timeframe for approval or denial is about two months.	Impacted business owners would still be able to apply for a variance if needed, but each parking variance received over the last four years was from an applicant located in the urban core who would no longer have a minimum requirement.
Requires a pre-application meeting with staff, application and fees, drawings or other documentation of why they need the variance, notice of hearings being mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the property, and a Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing.	
<b>Exemption Areas</b>	
The business owner can see if they are located within one of the city's 16 different exemption areas.	The majority of exemption areas are located in the urban core and would be removed. Unlike the current exemption areas that have stipulations on land use or square-footage, the new standards would apply to all uses and building square-footages.
<b>Shared Parking Agreement</b>	
If another nearby property owner has extra parking they can lease the needed spaces.	Impacted business owners would still be able to utilize shared parking agreements if needed, but if located in the urban core these agreements would only be necessary if the business owner deems it needed to meet demand.
Requires written agreements between the parking lot owner and the business to ensure the spaces being leased are not already leased to another business and not needed to count towards the parking lot owners required minimum.	
Requires additional cost for the leased spots and signage to make customers aware they are reserved for the restaurant.	
Requires city approval.	
<b>Available On-Street Parking</b>	
These spaces do not count towards any required parking minimums.	Businesses would be allowed to count any existing on-street parking towards their required parking minimums.

## Right-Size Bike Parking

- Reduced amount of variance requests
- Provides more realistic ratios for industrial and campus uses
- Aligns with Spirit Playbook goals

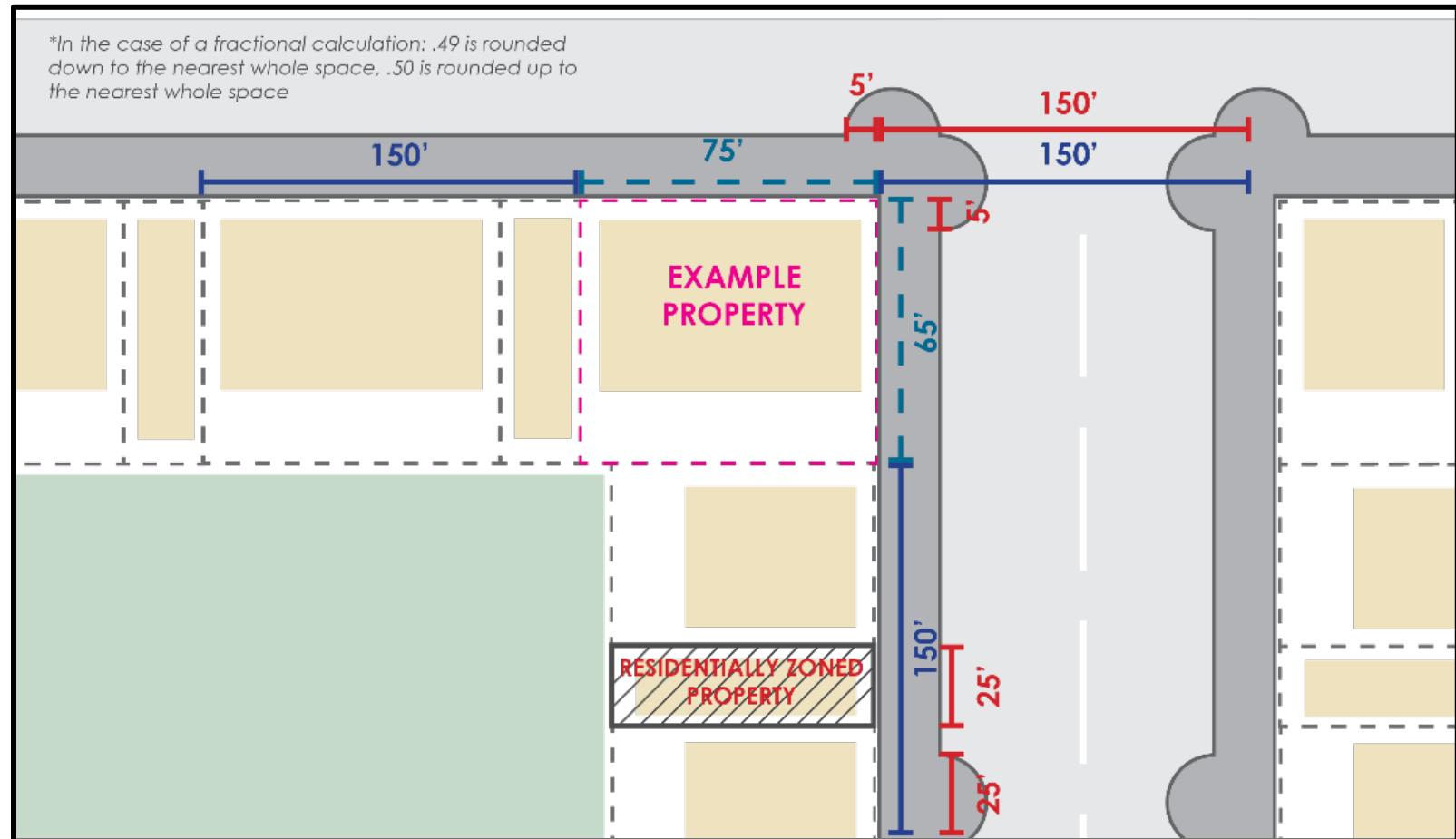
### ESSENTIALS OF BIKE PARKING

Selecting and installing bicycle parking that works



## Other Code Changes

- Counting on-street spaces
- Removed redundancies in the code
- Reduced minimums for bars and restaurants outside of the urban core



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## **Staff recommendation**

Approval without conditions

