

Comprehensive Policy Plan  
"Working Spaces"

Policy Letter 112: Downtown Parking

**BACKGROUND:**

Because of the Parking Authority, the City of Fargo does not require parking spaces to be a part of new developments in the downtown area. This is perceived to be a plus for attracting development into the downtown. A second perception that was discussed is that parking downtown is believed to be much worse than it actually is. Certain sections of the downtown, City Hall, the Block 6, the Black Building, and the Federal Building, have deficient parking, but overall parking is provided and accessible.

As businesses are relocating or expanding, a greater demand for more convenient and desirable parking has emerged, and the writing of a Master Parking Plan for the downtown has been requested. Essential to this plan is a Master Skyway Plan to link pedestrian traffic and create the atmosphere needed to promote development in the downtown area.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

**Public parking should be planned for by a broad based representation of civic and public entities, and provided in the Central Business District (CBD) at strategic locations to ensure the interests of all entities are met. Convenient and desirable parking should be available to persons using the downtown and be linked to the overall pedestrian system of walkways and skyways to attract and accommodate the public.**

**CONCLUSION:**

While plans are developed and relocations continue, much can be done through public education and promotion of the existing parking and skyway system. Fargo has safe and accessible parking that is linked to pedestrian corridors, but is underutilized. Also, other activities such as the transit system or shared riding could reduce the need for spaces. There is a need for other "trophy" buildings like the Radisson to link skyways and expand parking opportunities, but until that develops, plans for parking and pedestrian traffic, and the implementation of those plans, are critical in attracting and promoting downtown development.