



# Memorandum

**To:** Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

**From:** Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

**Date:** June 10, 2025

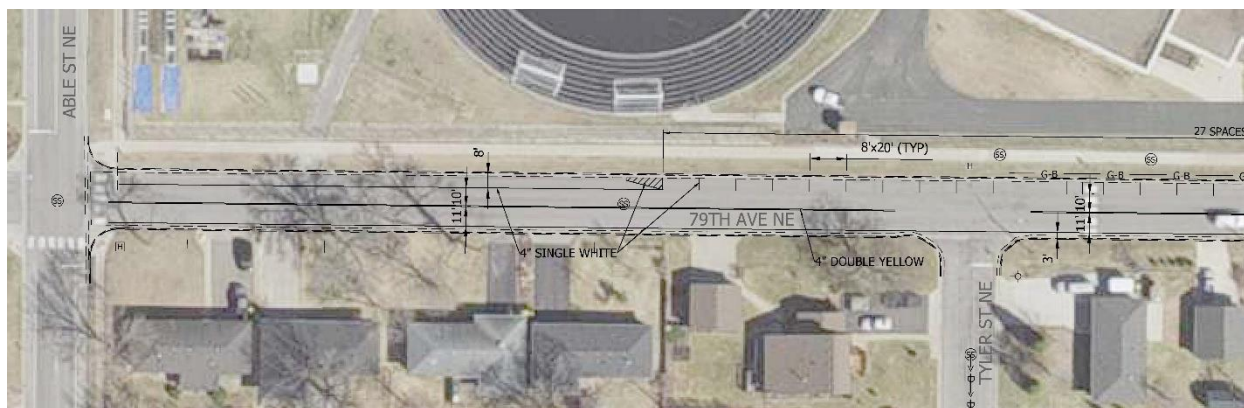
**Subject:** 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue On-Street Parking Discussion

The City Council has received parking complaints from residents of Van Buren Street, between 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Residents have stated that high school students are parking on this section of roadway, blocking mailboxes and driveways. The residents are requesting “No Parking During School Hours” signs to be placed on this section of roadway.

The City Council took a first step in addressing these parking complaints by adopting an ordinance clarifying that no one shall park within 10 feet of a mailbox. This ordinance will provide the Police Department with the tools to ticket vehicles parked too close to a mailbox. If an illegally parked vehicle is not moved within 4 hours, the Police Department can have it towed at the owner’s expense.

Chief Antoine and I met with Principal Boucher in an attempt to better understand the High School’s parking situation. There are 343 designated parking spaces for full-time student use, which are oversold by 5%. An additional 70 parking spaces in the staff lot are made available for part-time students. Parking permits are issued for school parking, which are sold to students. Permits are limited to juniors and seniors, with very limited exceptions for sophomores.

To help alleviate neighborhood congestion, Chief Antoine and I propose creating a designated on-street parking zone along a portion of 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This zone would accommodate approximately 27 to 37 additional student parking spaces.





The area south of the proposed zone includes commercial uses and side yards, with the parking area intentionally ending before homes that face 79th Avenue to minimize potential residential impacts. Parking would be restricted on the south side of 79th Avenue to ensure adequate roadway width for emergency vehicle access.

We would anticipate the cost of this change to be between \$1,250 - \$1,500, which would include striping the parking zone and the installation of parking signs.

Chief Antoine has shared this proposal with SBM Fire Department and the Fire Department has no objections.

If the City Council finds this to be a favorable solution, staff would prepare a resolution for the City Council to adopt establishing the parking zone. We would also inform the High School of this parking change so they can inform the students on the parking permit wait list of this on-street parking availability. We would also have the School Resource Officer educate students on this parking availability.

In addition to the proposed parking zone, the Metropolitan Council is establishing a pilot program establishing a “Metro micro” zone covering portions of Blaine, Spring Lake Park and Coon Rapids. “Metro micro” provides an on-demand, real-time shared ride service, similar to Uber/Lyft. Riders request a ride on their phone, are picked up and brought to their requested location within the zone. The vehicle may pick up others along the way. The expected launch date is September 2025 with hours of operation between the hours of 5:30am – 10:30pm on weekdays and 7:00am – 10:30pm on weekends. Fares are \$3.25 per trip during rush hour and \$2.50 per trip other times. There are free transfers for 2.5 hours. The Blaine zone map is being finalized by Met Transit. However, this could be a convenient way for Spring Lake Park students to get home after practices or sporting events.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chief Antoine or me at 763-784-6491.