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# Urban Experts Agree: Tackling Parking Critical to Climate Change Fight,

**Per New Report and Survey**

*Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (ITDP) collection of insights from key leaders across the country includes 10 recommendations to accelerate parking reform in cities*

**New York, NY (March 3, 2021)** – In a new report released by the [Institute for Transportation & Development Policy](https://www.itdp.org/) (ITDP), 39 out of 40 experts interviewed in cities across the country described parking reform as very important or important to the fight against climate change. 37 out of 40 felt too much land is going to parking rather than more productive uses that lead to cleaner, greener, and more equitable cities.

The experts – made up of municipal planners, development leads from major retailers, technologists, and advocates – completed a survey and series of in-depth interviews, which ITDP and Martha Roskowski of Further Strategies compiled into a report, titled [*Ideas to Accelerate Parking Reform in the United States*.](https://www.itdp.org/publication/17439/)

The report found tackling status quos around parking to be a potentially significant driver of city action around climate change, housing affordability, and economic development in the years ahead.

“With a new Secretary of Transportation committed to generational changes in mobility, now is the time to come together to make parking reform a priority in U.S. cities and regions,” said Michael Kodransky, ITDP U.S Director. “In particular, any city or state working toward a climate strategy with electric vehicles at the center must pair their efforts with a parking reform strategy to solve congestion, create safer streets, and support housing, businesses, cultural spaces, and parks.”

“The interviews show that parking reform is primarily a political problem, not a policy challenge. There is so much potential in parking reform, I hope this report can help elected officials, advocates and funders muster the courage to tackle the topic,” says Martha Roskowski.

“Most cities have an obsolete parking mindset that puts pavement over people and the planet,” said Darryl Young, Sustainable Cities Program Director at the Summit Foundation. “This report has actionable recommendations for any city serious about climate.”

Other key opinions from the report include:

* 80% agree publicly owned parking is priced too low for the market.
* 70% see developer parking requirements as making housing too expensive.
* 63% believe city mayors and business leaders are key audiences for accelerating parking reform.
* 73% see municipalities as the stakeholder best positioned to lead parking reform.

The report contains 10 recommendations for cities to accelerate parking reform including exploring new pricing models, removing parking minimums (or instituting parking maximums), and communicating more effectively about the links between parking, climate, and housing affordability. The report contains highlights and examples from various cities, including:

* In 2017, Buffalo, New York became the first US city to remove all parking requirements for any kind of development. The city’s center, which had been ailing for decades, has since witnessed a surge in apartment construction.
* Using smart meters and variable pricing ranging from $0.25–$7.00, San Francisco’s parking program reduced cruising for parking 50% by keeping occupancy rates at 60– 80%.
* As Chicago transforms more on-street parking into bike lanes, it now also subsidizes its bike share program, Divvy, for $5 per year for low-income residents.

Report contributors also emphasizes the myriad equity implications around parking policy, encouraging all parking policymakers to first listen to the experiences of residents of color before jumping immediately to any solution.

Learn more about the parking attitudes report at [https://www.itdp.org/publication/17439/.](https://www.itdp.org/publication/17439/) The report was made possible thanks to support by the Summit Foundation’s Sustainable Cities program.

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## About ITDP

The Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (ITDP) is a not-for-profit organization headquartered in New York City with offices across the United States and worldwide. ITDP works to promote environmentally sustainable and socially equitable transport policies and projects around the world. Our work is to accelerate change toward sustainable mobility, access to opportunity and a just future.

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