



CITY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

Engineering Our Cities' Futures

May 2, 2024

Senator Kari Dziedzic, Chair
Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee

RE: Concerns Regarding SF 3572

Chair Dziedzic and Committee Members:

On behalf of the City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with SF 3572 (Fateh).

As city engineers, we understand the importance of effective street widths, especially when dense parking is present. Without minimum off street parking requirements, there is a risk that streets will become overcrowded, making it difficult for emergency vehicles to access buildings and for maintenance crews to perform necessary tasks such as snow plowing.

Most cities have local street widths of 29-32 feet. With parking on both sides of the street, the unobstructed width of the travel way is approximately 13-16 feet wide, if the cars are parked close to the curb. However, in winter months the actual width of a street can be reduced by several feet as snowbanks extend into the street. Even a loss of two feet on each side of the street will result in a travel way width of 9 – 12 feet making bidirectional travel extremely difficult. This is very common and we only need to look back to the winter of 2022/2023 to recall a time when cities were implementing one sided street parking bans in order to maintain emergency vehicle access and snow removal operations.

Additionally, dense on street parking will have impacts on sight distance at intersections and driveway and alley access points. This reduced sight distance will create more safety concerns for vehicles and pedestrians.

The majority of cities and townships have bans on overnight parking on public streets. Over time, this legislation will force cities to modify those ordinances and will have impacts on the operation of city activities.

We urge the committee to carefully consider the potential impact of this bill on the safety and functionality of our cities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on SF 3572.

Sincerely,

City Engineers Association of Minnesota Executive Committee

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