

**From:** Kristi Stokes [mailto:kstokes@downtownduluth.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2015 11:21 AM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Superior Street

Dear Councilors,

Earlier this week the Greater Downtown Council generated a petition prioritizing the retention of parking for the re-design of Superior Street. It also indicated that those signing the petition did not support a designated bike lane on Superior Street (although we do agree that bikes should be welcomed and accommodated downtown, just not with a designated lane on Superior Street).

This petition was signed primarily by business and property owners as well as managers and employees. We have received more than 430 signatures and they continue to come in. Please know that these are individuals who are truly invested in our downtown and support a commercially successful and vibrant business district. Our businesses, especially our retailers, rely heavily on the ability to have on-street parking for their customers. Site-selectors and potential tenants request this information when they are considering a space. Available on-street parking plays a key role in the economic vitality of our district.

Please understand the concerns raised by our business and property owners are real. They are here on a daily basis. They pay the property taxes in our district and they support thousands of families in our community. We strongly support studying the feasibility of designated lanes on Michigan Street, rather than Superior Street. This would allow our bike trails to be connected across town and still provide a safe and inviting access into our downtown, directly by our new Transportation Center (which is being built to accommodate bikes).

Thank you for all of the dialogue we have shared,

Kristi

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