



PERFECT FIT PARKING

Parking is a hotly debated issue across the region, yet until now there has been little hard data on how much parking we have, and how much we need. MAPC's Perfect Fit Parking Initiative aims to provide a better understanding of parking supply and demand in multifamily residential developments. We conducted middle-of-the-night counts at 80 developments in 5 municipalities north of Boston, and found that one quarter of the available spaces were empty. On average, 1.15 parking spaces are provided per housing unit, but only 0.85 spaces per unit are occupied. In total, we counted nearly 1,200 empty spaces, representing a tremendous waste of space and money.

Even as parking is already oversupplied, there are signs that demand may be waning further. A growing number

of households without a vehicle—driven by growing use of transit, car-sharing, ridesharing, and biking—means that tomorrow's households will need fewer spaces than those living in the area today. By setting parking requirements that are more in line with actual demand, and establishing policies that encourage more efficient use of the parking supply we already have, municipalities can help to create more livable, walkable, and affordable communities.

MAPC is expanding the Perfect Fit Parking initiative to more communities in the Inner Core, and has already begun the survey process in Cambridge. To learn more, see

[PERFECTFITPARKING.MAPC.ORG](https://perfectfitparking.mapc.org)