



To: The City of Dunedin Mayor, Commission and City Manager

From: The Dunedin Chamber of Commerce

August 2, 2024

Dear City of Dunedin,

I am writing to express strong support, on behalf of our Executive Board, for the construction of a parking garage in our beautiful city, at Douglas Avenue and Scotland Street, as our previous letter stated. Our support for the purchase of this property was specific to this use as a parking facility.

We have been contacted on a regular and even increasing basis regarding the parking issues that have arisen due to our city's growing popularity.

Dunedin's charm, vibrant arts scene, and numerous events make it an attractive destination for residents and visitors alike. However, the limited availability of parking spaces has become a significant challenge.

Given that Dunedin has only 38,000 residents in its tax base, which is small and thus why our business base is so important economically to Dunedin.

This issue not only affects the convenience of residents but also hinders the growth of local businesses and impacts their staff as well. With the impending losses of over 50 spaces at Ocean Optics and others at risk lots, while development is at a premium, it is raising even greater priority.

Our Master plan speaks to parking and our commitment to the CRA and county indicate a second parking garage to meet our needs.

A parking garage would address these challenges in several ways:

1. **Increased Capacity:** A parking garage would provide a substantial increase in available parking spaces, easing congestion on our streets and reducing the time spent searching for parking. It would also replace the at risk lots that are going away. A very visible lot & utilized lot at ocean optics will be at design review soon.
2. **Economic Growth:** Local businesses rely on easy access for customers. A well-designed parking garage would encourage more people to visit our downtown area, boosting economic growth.



3. Reduced Traffic: With a dedicated parking facility, visitors may park centrally and explore the city on foot, reducing traffic congestion and making our streets safer for pedestrians.

4. Sustainable Development: Modern parking garages can incorporate green building technologies, promoting sustainability and aligning with our city's environmental goals. We understand that there may be concerns about the cost and aesthetics of such a project, but we believe these challenges can be addressed through thoughtful planning and design.

Many successful cities have utilized parking garages as a strategic solution to similar parking issues while maintaining the unique character of their communities. We urge the City of Dunedin to prioritize this project and seek input from residents, businesses, and urban planning experts to ensure the parking garage aligns with our community's vision. By doing so, we can continue to preserve the essence of Dunedin while improving the quality of life for all.

Thank you for considering this vital initiative to enhance our city. We look forward to a more accessible and thriving Dunedin for generations to come.

Regards,  
Katie Ducharme Procissi  
Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, Chair