To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2097 which prohibits local agencies from imposing or enforcing parking minimums on residential and commercial developments within one-half mile of a major transit stop unless certain conditions are met.

While this bill will undoubtedly have a positive impact in reaching our state’s climate and housing goals, we must be vigilant in guarding against earnestly unintended consequences. In the absence of this important state policy change, many local governments have rightly taken it upon themselves to craft transit-oriented housing incentive programs. It is not our intent in creating this new law to undermine the efficacy of these local initiatives.

Therefore, I am directing the Department of Housing and Community Development to closely monitor implementation of this bill and identify any unintended outcomes, including impacts to affordable housing development in downtown-oriented development areas.

Should any issues be identified in the implementation of this bill, future legislation may be necessary to address those concerns to ensure both policy objectives can be achieved in a balanced and equitable way.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom