

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS SUMMARY REPORT

August 2025

OVERVIEW

As part of the Downtown Parking and Traffic Flow Study, the City of Harrisonville conducted four targeted focus groups with key stakeholder groups: the Board of Aldermen, City staff, community stakeholders, and Harrisonville Square stakeholders. These conversations provided invaluable insight into how residents, employees, and officials experience and perceive parking, traffic, walkability, accessibility, and events in the historic square.

Recurring themes centered around visibility, predictability, signage, and the balance between maintaining the square's historic charm and meeting modern mobility and access needs. Perspectives varied somewhat by user group, but consistent challenges emerged across the board - particularly during events and peak traffic times.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Deep community pride in the historic downtown square.
- Generally sufficient parking during normal business hours.
- Walkable environment with multiple points of access.
- City-owned parking lots exist but are underutilized due to lack of signage.
- Community values preservation of historic features, especially brick pavers.

Weaknesses

- Traffic flow is confusing, particularly where one-way and two-way transitions occur.
- Visibility is limited at several intersections due to parking placement.
- Crosswalks are inconsistently marked, and some are poorly located.
- ADA accessibility is limited and hindered by uneven surfaces and curb heights.
- Parking limits are rarely enforced, largely due to inconsistent policies and a deliberate decision by the Police Department to avoid enforcing unclear or unenforceable rules.
- Commercial deliveries create blockages and safety concerns.
- Alleys are inconsistently signed and poorly marked.



Opportunities

- Improve signage and wayfinding, including off-square parking and alley use.
- Redesign intersections for better visibility and consistent traffic control.
- Create pedestrian-friendly infrastructure that balances safety and aesthetics.
- Engage merchants and staff in parking behavior changes.
- Develop consistent policies for trash pickup, deliveries, and alley access.
- Consider new strategies for event parking and shuttle access.

Threats

- Increased downtown business and residential activity will strain current systems.
- Lack of ADA improvements could lead to legal and functional accessibility concerns.
- Historic preservation considerations may limit certain infrastructure changes.

ISSUES AND ENGINEERING CONSIDERATIONS

Traffic Flow & Visibility

- Evaluate sight distance and remove/adjust parking at Square entry points.
- Address confusion at intersections where traffic flow changes:
 - Pearl: clarify where one-way begins/ends.
 - Wirt: clarify one-way vs two-way transitions.
 - Marler: add signage indicating traffic direction.
- Install stop signs or other traffic control at all four corners of the Square (evaluate feasibility of a roundabout approach).
- Address illegal or unintentional wrong-way driving on Wall and Pearl.
- Study turning movements and curb radius at:
 - SW corner of the Square (tight turns for semis)
 - Independence to Wall (tight corners blocked by large trucks)
- Review enforcement and visibility of stop signs at:
 - Independence at Pearl.
 - Westbound Pearl near Artisans.
- Evaluate traffic flow during events – the primary issue isn't parking availability but ensuring safe and efficient options for both vehicle circulation and pedestrian movement.
- Install signage at alley exits to clearly indicate allowed direction of travel and one-way restrictions.
- Clarify designation of each alley (public/private, one-way/two-way) and post directional signage accordingly.

Signage & Wayfinding

- Improve consistency and predictability of one-way signage across all streets.
- Add signage at alley exits indicating direction of traffic.
- Add visual entry signage to define the Historic Square district (e.g., archways, color-coded signs).
- Install directional signage to City-owned and public parking lots.
- Post off-square business and amenity signs to encourage parking away from the Square.

Parking

- Stripe all public parking stalls clearly (including angle and orientation).
- Repaint or restripe lots to clarify flow (e.g., Beck's lot, Davis lot).
- Evaluate appropriate stall sizes:
 - Smaller stalls near courthouse for compact cars.
 - Larger stalls elsewhere for full-size trucks.
- Clarify rules for alley access and parking (e.g., Marler alley behind David's lot).
- Determine signage needs to communicate public/private lot use (e.g., can patrons of 1886 park in Beck's lot?).
- Add signage about parking lot availability and locations beyond the Square.
- Explore options to prohibit or limit all-day employee parking on the Square.
- Clarify or remove unenforced 2-hour limit signage.
- Evaluate need and feasibility of designated bus/truck parking with permits.

Pedestrian Connectivity & ADA Access

- Relocate or reconfigure midblock crosswalk on Mechanic.
- Explore additional crosswalks:
 - Between school and library.
 - At Marler & Wirt.
 - From courthouse to outer edge of Square (no safe crossing currently exists).
- Address lack of consistent ADA curb ramps and crosswalk markings.
- Inventory sidewalk conditions, repair tripping hazards, and determine maintenance responsibility.
- Consider replacing brick in crosswalks with:
 - ADA-compliant concrete or stamped asphalt
 - Epoxy coating over existing bricks for smoother surface
- Clarify pedestrian zone designation and signage.

Deliveries & Loading

- Provide clear instructions for delivery vehicles on easy routes to and from downtown, and easier parking options (can't restrict or regulate though).
- Review enforcement of delivery truck restrictions on the Square.

Trash Management

- Prohibit residential trash carts from being placed on the Square.
- Require commercial trash services to use single, consolidated receptacles.
- Enclose dumpsters and provide designated off-square locations.
- Address difficulty collecting trash in alleys when cars are parked.

Event-Specific Considerations

- Maintain open access to north side of Square (Pearl to Chestnut to Pearl) during events, if possible.
- Formalize shuttle pick-up/drop-off locations for major events.
- Pave Davis lot and consider signage for event overflow.
- Provide accessible and clearly marked parking for event attendees.
- Tour bus traffic may increase in the future – identify designated parking.

Other Infrastructure Needs

- Evaluate options for bicycle parking.
- Install street lighting on underlit side streets (e.g., Pearl behind J Carl's).
- Investigate feasibility of permanent banner structure across Independence for event promotion.
- Identify visual blight locations and develop beautification or screening options.