

SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

August 2025

OVERVIEW

The City of Harrisonville conducted a public survey to better understand the community's experiences with parking, traffic, walking, and biking in the downtown area. The results offer valuable insight into how residents and visitors use the area, the challenges they face, and what improvements they would like to see.

DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 244 individuals participated in the Downtown Harrisonville Parking Study between June 2 and 20, 2025. The survey drew strong input from the immediate area, with 80% of respondents reporting a 64701 ZIP code.

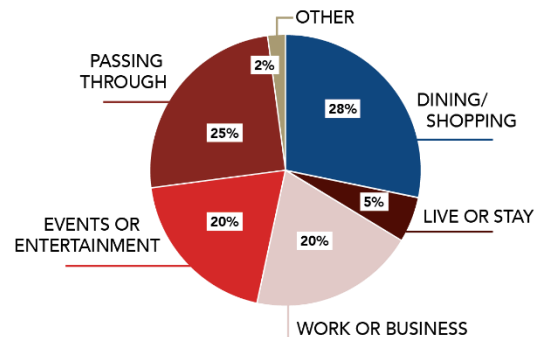
The survey reached a broad cross-section of adult residents:

- 45% were between ages 25 and 44.
- Nearly 40% were between ages 45 and 64.
- Younger adults (18–24) and older adults (65+) were also represented.

Downtown visitation is frequent and purposeful:

- 73% visit multiple times a week, including 32% who come daily and 41% a few times per week.
- Top reasons for visiting include dining or shopping (28%), passing through (25%), and work or business (20%).

What are your main reasons for visiting Downtown Harrisonville?



Nearly all respondents (98%) drive to downtown, though many also walk (23%) or ride with someone else (10%).

This demographic profile suggests the feedback reflects the perspectives of working-age residents, families, and long-time community members who are most likely to use and experience Downtown Harrisonville on a regular basis.

WHAT WE HEARD: KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Survey participants were clear and consistent in identifying the biggest challenges they face when navigating Downtown Harrisonville, as well as where they see the greatest opportunities for improvement.

The top issues reported by respondents centered around three main themes: driving circulation, parking access, and pedestrian safety. Many noted that intersections are confusing, visibility is poor, and one-way street patterns are unclear. While most people are able to find parking quickly, there is frustration about the lack of signage, unclear stall markings, and all-day employee parking on the Square. Walking downtown is generally seen as pleasant, but uneven sidewalks, missing curb ramps, and hard-to-cross streets limit accessibility for many.

When asked what improvements would make the biggest difference, respondents prioritized safer and more visible crosswalks, reconfigured or expanded parking, and clearer signage. People also want better pedestrian connections, more predictable traffic flow, and solutions for delivery congestion and event navigation.

What are the top issues have you experienced when driving or parking downtown?

Finding parking near my destination	101
Too few parking spaces	97
Navigating intersections or traffic flow	93
Delivery vehicles blocking access	58
No major issues	54
Confusing signage	26
Other	33

What improvements would make it easier or more enjoyable to get around Downtown Harrisonville?

Reconfigured or expanded parking	127
Safer or more visible crosswalks	107
Improved signage	79
Better management of delivery vehicles	59
More connected sidewalks	49
Slower vehicle speeds	41
Dedicated bike lanes or routes	15
Other	14

PARKING

Downtown Harrisonville's parking system is functionally sufficient for many users - most respondents report they can find parking within five minutes - but operational and communication challenges remain.

Issues:

- Lack of clarity about where public parking is allowed.
- City-owned lots are underutilized due to limited signage and unclear orientation.
- Stall sizes vary; compact stalls near the courthouse are often too small for larger vehicles.
- Employee parking on the Square all day reduces availability for visitors.
- Two-hour time limits are posted but not actively enforced, creating confusion.

How long does it typically take you to find parking?

81%

answered "Immediately" or "Less than 5 minutes"

Suggested Solutions:

- Stripe all public stalls for angle, size, and orientation clarity.
- Install directional signage to public parking lots located off the Square.
- Designate certain lots for long-term employee parking via signage or permits.
- Clarify rules for public parking in private lots.
- Evaluate need for designated bus and truck parking zones.

Where do you usually park when visiting Downtown Harrisonville?

On-street parking close to my destination	135
On-street parking farther away	45
Public parking lot near my destination	28
Public parking lot farther away	15
Private or business-owned lot	14
I don't usually drive	3
Other	4

DRIVING

Community feedback highlighted several safety, signage, and navigation challenges for drivers in and around the downtown Square.

Issues:

- Confusing transitions between one-way and two-way streets, especially on Pearl, Wirt, and Marler.
- Poor visibility at intersections due to vehicles parked too close to corners.
- Unintentional wrong-way driving.
- Stop signs are frequently missed at intersections like Independence & Pearl and westbound Pearl near Artisans.
- Trucks struggle with tight turning radii at the southwest corner of the Square and Independence to Wall.

When visiting downtown, how do you typically travel?

Drive a personal vehicle	238
Walk	57
Ride with someone else	24
Bike	5
Use a mobility device	1
Other	9

Suggested Solutions:

- Install uniform signage at all four Square corners and evaluate a mini-roundabout design.
- Install clear directional signage at alley exits and identify alley type (public/private, one/two-way).
- Enforce or better highlight existing stop signs and traffic rules with striping or visual cues.
- Adjust curb lines or restrict parking near corners to improve turning visibility.

WALKING & BIKING

Participants noted that while downtown is generally walkable, gaps in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure impact accessibility and safety.

Issues:

- Sidewalk gaps and uneven pavement create tripping hazards.
- Missing or poorly marked curb ramps and crosswalks.
- Unsafe pedestrian crossings.
- Historic brick streets, while valued for aesthetics, limit accessibility.

Suggested Solutions:

- Conduct a full sidewalk condition inventory and prioritize repair.
- Add or upgrade ADA-compliant curb ramps and standardize crosswalk markings.
- Consider using epoxy or textured coating over bricks for accessibility without compromising aesthetics.
- Post clear signage for pedestrian-only zones or high foot traffic areas.

OTHER ISSUES

In addition to parking, driving, and pedestrian concerns, the community offered detailed input on operational aspects that affect the overall downtown experience.

Deliveries & Loading

Issues:

- Delivery trucks block traffic lanes and sidewalks during peak times.
- Lack of formal routes or designated loading areas.
- Alley access is blocked by parked cars.

Suggested Solutions:

- Publish and share mapped delivery routes with local businesses.
- Designate and sign preferred loading areas.
- Limit alley parking near delivery access points during business hours.

Event-Specific Concerns

Issues:

- Event-related congestion affects normal vehicle and emergency access.
- Shuttle drop-off/pick-up zones are not clearly marked.
- No designated overflow parking for large events.

Suggested Solutions:

- Maintain access along Pearl–Chestnut loop during events where possible.
- Designate and sign shuttle and overflow parking zones (e.g., Davis lot).
- Use temporary event signage for wayfinding and accessibility.

Trash Management

Issues:

- Residential trash bins are left on sidewalks during the day.
- Commercial dumpsters are poorly located or inconsistent.
- Trash collection in alleys is obstructed by vehicles.

Suggested Solutions:

- Limit residential cart placement to designated pickup zones.
- Consolidate and enclose dumpsters away from view.
- Designate clear alley access routes for trash service.

Signage & Wayfinding

Issues:

- Unclear directions for one-way streets and alleys.
- Lack of visual identity signaling Historic Square entrance.
- Off-square amenities and public lots are hard to locate.

Suggested Solutions:

- Install visual entry features (arches, historic markers, consistent branding).
- Post signs to guide users to businesses and lots beyond the Square.
- Clarify alley direction and traffic restrictions with new signage.

CONCLUSION

The survey responses point to a few clear themes: while parking availability may be adequate for many, there are consistent concerns around navigation, delivery traffic, and pedestrian safety. Regular users rely heavily on personal vehicles, but they also value walkability and the experience of moving through downtown on foot. Targeted improvements could not only enhance the daily experience for residents and visitors, but also support the success of existing businesses, attract new investment, and foster a vibrant, economically strong downtown that benefits the entire community.