Executive Summary

ADDRESSING PARKING CHALLENGES: Innovative Parking Solutions for a Vibrant Community

The Wicker Park Business Special Service Area (WPPB) partnered with CMAP to conduct a comprehensive parking study in Wicker Park in 2013. This report details the processes and outcomes of the study, which aimed to address parking challenges and improve the community’s quality of life. The study was conducted between April and October 2013, and its findings are based on data collected from various sources.

Methodology

The study employed a multi-method approach, including a survey of WPPB businesses, interviews with residents, and analysis of parking data. The research team conducted a comprehensive analysis of the parking conditions in the area, which included an assessment of the number of parking spaces, parking occupancy rates, and the types of parking available.

Findings

The study identified several key findings:

1. The WPPB is a vibrant and diverse neighborhood with a high concentration of businesses and residents. However, parking is a significant challenge for the community.
2. The majority of parking in the area is metered, with a small percentage of free parking.
3. The average parking occupancy rates are high, with many spaces being occupied for long periods.
4. The study found that there is a lack of parking availability during certain hours, particularly on weekends and during peak business hours.

Recommendations

The study recommends several strategies to address the parking challenges in Wicker Park, including:

1. Developing a comprehensive parking management plan that includes strategies for demand management, such as pricing and time restrictions.
2. Increasing the availability of parking through the use of public-private partnerships.
3. Implementing Innovative Parking Solutions, such as digital signage and metering, to improve the efficiency of the parking system.
4. Encouraging alternative transportation options, such as bike-sharing and car-sharing programs.

Conclusion

The WPPB parking study provides valuable insights into the parking challenges facing the community. The recommendations in this report are intended to help the WPPB and its stakeholders develop effective strategies to improve parking conditions and enhance the overall quality of life in the neighborhood.