

# Hinsdale studying downtown parking, again

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HINSDALE — The first phase of the parking study in downtown Hinsdale is under way and it's time for the public to share their suggestions and concerns.

For the next few weeks, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is collecting input via the website, [www.hinsdale.metroquest.com](http://www.hinsdale.metroquest.com).

People are asked to identify their priorities for getting around the downtown. Is it to make more parking available, or make the parking closer to the destination? Is it to lower the cost of parking or make it easier to bicycle or walk through the downtown? Those are some of the suggested priorities, but visitors to the website can suggest different priorities.

"We want people to be specific and not just say (the parking) is terrible; I hate it," said Lindsay Bayley, a senior planner with the planning agency. One worthwhile suggestion she already saw on the website was for a better drop-off area at the Metra station.

The study is being conducted at no cost to the village. The village applied for and received a grant for technical assistance.

The consultants will bring not only expertise, but also a fresh set of eyes to the situation, Hinsdale Economic Development Director Timothy Scott said.

The planning agency team is "taking a very measured approach (and) will look at it in a methodical fashion," Scott said.

There's a hierarchy of drivers competing for the parking spaces, he said. At the top are the shoppers and diners who frequent local businesses. But the people who work at the businesses need a place to park if they drive.

"We are looking at it as a supply and demand issue," Bayley said.

The team is studying the area roughly bordered by Maple Street, Fourth Street, Vine Street and Park Avenue.

The first phase of the project analyzes existing conditions, based on input gathered not just from the website, but from personal interviews and parking counts.

"We've done about a dozen interviews at this point," Bayley said last week.

The team counted how many parking spaces were occupied on four different weekdays and one Saturday between January and March. The team also is reviewing information in previous studies, such as Vision 2025.

Bayley expects the report on existing conditions will be finished by May.

A steering committee of 12 community representatives, including Police Chief Bradley Bloom, Village Trustee J. Kimberley Angelo and Scott, are working with the agency.

The final report with recommended implementation strategies will not be completed until October, Bayley said.

For more information, look at the website, [www.cmap.illinois.gov/hinsdale](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/hinsdale).