Addressing parking and improving transportation for Chinatown

Tonight’s Agenda
- Project & workshop goals
- About you – keypad polling
- Visual preference activity
- Overview of project
- Parking Management Strategies
- Strategize group activity

Project & workshop goals

Project
- Identify parking strategies that accomplish goals of Chinatown Community Vision Plan, help support local businesses, and improve the vitality of Chinatown.

Workshop
- Understand neighborhood priorities
- Understand current parking challenges

How did you get to the meeting tonight?
1. Walk
2. Bike
3. Train
4. Bus
5. Drive
6. Other

Do you live in Chinatown?
1. Yes
2. No
3. Not anymore
Why do you primarily come to Chinatown (Select 3)?
1. I work in Chinatown
2. I come for recreation / fun
3. I attend religious services
4. Other services (doctor / acupuncture / banking / hair)
5. I do my grocery shopping in Chinatown
6. I buy retail goods in Chinatown
7. I go to restaurants
8. I visit friends / family
9. Other / I live here

What is your preferred language (select 1)?
1. English
2. Mandarin
3. Cantonese
4. Spanish
5. Other

Age
1. Under 19
2. 20-34
3. 35-49
4. 50-64
5. 65-79
6. 80 or better
7. Prefer not to answer

Gender
1. Female
2. Male
3. Prefer not to answer

What is the end goal of “improving parking”?  
Better public Spaces?
Easy to find parking?
Residents can find a spot when they come home?
Less traffic congestion?
A parking garage?
Easy to get around without a car?
Safer to walk?

Chinatown Identity (Future vision)
Chinatown is a
neighborhood!
I love it because
________________, 
________________, 
and _______________.

(10 minutes)
The Importance of Parking

- Parking influences the character and function of our communities
- Parking is important for visitors, residents, and local businesses
- Goal of creating a vibrant, safe community
- Too much parking makes walking and biking unsafe, makes housing expensive, and increases flooding
Good streets move people, not just cars

When you decide how you’re going to travel, what are your top 2 priorities?

1. Travel time
2. How easy it will be to find free parking
3. How much parking costs
4. If transit goes there
5. How comfortable/safe I feel walking
6. How safe I feel biking
7. Cost of travel
8. Other
What is the biggest parking challenge for parking in Chinatown?

1. Parking availability for businesses/visitors
2. Parking availability for residents
3. Distance to available parking
4. Safety concerns for walking
5. Traffic congestion from cars looking for parking
6. Confusing signage
7. Loading zones

What is the best way to get some people to drive less?

1. Improve bus service and frequency
2. Make enhancements to the Chinatown red line station (cleaner enclosed areas, lighting)
3. Nicer bus shelters with arrival times and better information about where buses go
4. Improve safety for walking (lighting, underpasses, crossing streets)
5. Improve safety for riding a bike
6. Increase parking costs, reduce transit costs

Understand current conditions

• Determine how much parking there is
• Count number of parked cars at different times of day for several days (a weekday, Saturday, Sunday), 6 time periods
• Create maps showing occupancy by time of day
We cannot solve a parking problem by building more parking

ECON 101: Supply & Demand

Without pricing, congestion is the equilibrium point

Content inspired by Jeff Tumlin, Nelson/Nygaard

Additional comments or questions?
Potential recommendations discussion

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Improve feelings of safety for people walking in (at least) one of the underpass walkways. Make it brightly lit, super clean, with art to connect west side.

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Expand public parking supply in South Chinatown, potentially adding on-street spaces with street re-design.

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Create convenience parking spaces, for people who want to pay extra to have the most convenient parking.

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Create a way for private, empty parking lots to capitalize on parking demand.

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Incentivize employees to use transit, walk, bike.
Things we’ve heard & discussed
Expansion of permit parking

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Improved public spaces, seating, and greenery

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Make it safer to ride a bicycle

Things we’ve heard & discussed
Parking garage, public parking in new buildings

Things we’ve heard & discussed
1. Improve feelings of safety for people walking in (at least) one of the underpass walkways
2. Expand public parking supply in South Chinatown, potentially adding on-street paid spaces with street re-design
3. Create convenience parking spaces, for people who want to pay extra to have the most convenient parking
4. Create a way for private, empty parking lots to capitalize on parking demand
5. Incentivize employees to use transit, walk, bike
6. Expansion of permit parking
7. Improved public spaces, seating, and greenery
8. Make it safer to ride a bicycle
9. Parking garage, public parking in new buildings

Potential Strategies
To keep Chinatown a place, and address [top parking problem], we’d like to see [strategy 1] and [strategy 2] pursued.

(20 minutes)
Thank you!

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https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/cta/chinatown-parking