



**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: See Attached

Date/ Time: May 5, 2007
9:00 AM - Noon

Project No.: VHB: 41290
State: 82-297

Place: Inn at Middletown

Re: Public Workshop #1

Notes taken by: MCB/RM / JM

This was the first of three public workshops for the study. The purpose of the workshops is to solicit public input and involvement with the Traffic and Parking Study for the Central Business District.

This workshop was led by John Mullin. The meeting focused on the existing strengths and weaknesses of the downtown parking and transportation system. The following is a summary of the citizen's comments. They are unranked.

- A. The Strengths of Middletown's Downtown Parking/Traffic Flow are:
 - Scattered parking lots throughout downtown
 - Available supply within 2 blocks
 - Activities slow traffic to a comfortable level
 - Middletown is a hub for the Region
 - Direct access to Route 9
 - Downtown is "walkable"
 - Downtown is "bikeable"
 - The mix of residential/shopping/and office users
 - Two hours of free parking

- B. The Weaknesses of Middletown's Downtown Parking/Traffic Flow are:
 - Linkages to parking are unclear: Way-finding is weak
 - The bus system is ineffective for commuters
 - Large businesses are not involved in parking solutions
 - There is no recognition of the needs of tourists and visitors
 - Workers take prime parking spaces
 - There are no connections between blocks
 - Police/Fire department inputs are lacking
 - Parking is unattractive
 - The width of Main Street equals two regular streets
 - Surface parking is poorly located
 - Parking spaces behind buildings are underutilized
 - Mass Transit is underutilized and hidden
 - There is insufficient residential parking in the downtown core

- There is a perceived lack of parking in the north end
- There is no plan for bicycle movement through downtown
- There is ineffective enforcement of parking regulations
- There is no professional parking authority

C. The most critical issues facing Middletown in terms of Parking/Traffic Flow are (no ranking):

- Efficient flow of traffic and adequate parking
- Recognizing the needs of multiple publics
- Ensuring the north end is adequately served
- Recognizing the need for aesthetically pleasing parking
- Making sure that bicycle users' needs are met
- Reducing the congestion at Main and Washington Streets
- Creating a trolley system that connects all of downtown
- Consider the creation of a shuttle bus system
- Whatever is built must respect Middletown's values
- Reducing the number of cars entering downtown Middletown
- Eliminating the differences between the north and south ends
- Create more parking spaces
- Ensure the signage (way-finding) is appropriate
- Create a long term management plan

The next public workshop will be held on June 7, 2007 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Green Street Arts Center, 51 Green Street. At this meeting a range of alternatives concepts will be presented for review and comment.

Middletown CBD Parking and Traffic Study

Public Workshop 1

Location: Inn at Middletown
Middletown, CT

Date: May 5, 2007
Time: 9:00 AM

LIST OF ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Email / Contact Information</u>
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Barbara Plum	Resident + P+Z	—
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