

Action Plan

Short Term Recommendations (within 1 year)

- *Signage* – The police department should continue to conduct their evaluation of the recommended overhaul of downtown signage (parking and wayfinding). The signage improvements are to ensure design consistency and placement at all relevant decision-making points, such as intersections and destination entrances.
 - Install signs one mile outside of city, at edge of downtown, and at city destinations.
 - Install signs downtown to guide people to parking lots.
 - Install maps to indicate restaurants, shopping, and services (like a shopping mall).
- Instruct public works to install new parking signage at all lots and directional signs to lots, in accordance with police recommendations.
- More complex components of the signage program, such as ornamental, color-themed signs, can be reviewed and implemented by the parking department. More standard regulatory, directional, and fee signage should be updated and/or replaced immediately.
- *Parking Meters* – The police department should continue their program of replacing mechanical parking meters with digital parking meters. Further, the police department should continue their evaluation of installing meters that provide 10-minute free parking, and those that accept stored-value affinity cards (such as the ParcXmart system).
- Develop policy on monthly parking and locations for monthly parkers.
- Move monthly parkers into public spaces at MMA garage.
- Allocate funding for improvements to Melilli Plaza / City Hall employee lot as discussed in the plan.
- Initiate design phase of the new parking garage as discussed in the body of this plan.
- Instruct public works to construct the Melilli / City Hall employee lot connection.
- Create a standalone Parking Department.
 - Hire a director for the department: a parking professional with Certified Administrator of Public Parking (CAPP) certification;
 - Hold the Parking Department responsible for the costs of maintenance, purchase of meters, collections, enforcement, and operational staff as needed to operate

parking within the district. Also, the Parking Department will be responsible for customer service, setting rates and time limits, location of long-term parking, and other policy issues.

- Establish a bike committee and conduct outreach/education programs with bicyclists and drivers regarding major bike corridors in addition to bike riding throughout the city.

Mid-Term Recommendations 1-2 years

- Once the parking department is in place implement operational changes, such as:
 - Implement a standardized three-tier parking pricing structure – on-street parking, off-street premium parking, and off-street remote parking.
 - Reduce parking time limits for metered spaces on Main Street between Washington Street and Court Street to one hour in addition to introducing at least one 20-minute parking space on each Main Street block to encourage parking turnover in high demand locations.
 - Implement a policy requiring parking validation from a downtown business in order to receive free two-hour parking at the Parking Arcade and Melilli Plaza. This policy will restrict courthouse patrons from using the City’s public parking free of charge.
 - Install parking meters in the Melilli Lot.
 - Extend on-street parking enforcement until 7:00 pm.
 - Move monthly permit parking away from locations that are in high-demand for short-term parking. For example, rather than having monthly parkers use the Melilli Lot, they should be parking in the Arcade Deck or the MCC Garage.
 - Develop policy to enhance access to public parking facilities for residential overnight parking.
- Move some city employees and city cars to assigned parking on Dekoven Drive.
- *Courthouse Garage* – The City should meet with the administrative judge to discuss moving some or all City Hall employees into the Superior Court Garage.
- Move any remaining monthly parkers in the Melilli lot to the back of the new lot. Designate front of Melilli one hour parking.
- *Additional On-Street Parking* – Create additional on-street parking as designated in the plan.
- *Additional On-Street Parking Meters* – Parking meters should be installed in select locations. Short-term parking meters should be installed on Old Church Street and Union Street, immediately. Long-term parking meters should be installed where hospital employees park all day on City streets.

- Adopt bike friendly policy including bike paths into city and bike infrastructure as a part of all future projects. Design and adopt bike path plan with goal of connecting 80 percent of homes in Middletown to downtown bike system.
- Enhance major bike corridors in downtown with signage and bike lanes where necessary, especially along High Street, Broad Street, Dekoven Drive, Court Street, and College Street.
- Install bicycling amenities downtown in proximity to the identified major bike corridors and a cycling center near the new transit center for long term parking, showers, and bike route information.
- *Pedestrian Crossings* – Enhance all downtown intersections to include bus stops, where appropriate, audible signals, textured cross walks, pedestrian “count-down” signals, and tactile guidance strips to accessible curb ramps.
- *Additional Parking Opportunities* - Investigate and construct, if feasible, a common public parking lot combining the public library lot with adjacent private parking areas. This new parking area would require long-term leases or property acquisition and cooperation from current landowners. Improving pedestrian connections from this parking area to Main Street is an important element of any design.
- Initiate engineering feasibility study to construct a streetcar on Main Street.

Long-Term Recommendations (2-5 years)

- Construct a new parking deck and garage as discussed in the body of this plan.
- Create bike path/ route to connect downtown to Newfield St.
- Create bike path/ route to connect downtown to Wesleyan Hills Planned Residential Development.
- Create bike path/ route to connect downtown to the South Farms section of the city to Randolph Road.
- Create a vital, now missing link to encourage regional bicycling to the north (from Cromwell to Harbor Park).
- Install a Street Car on Main Street