

## Downtown Parking Study — Phases I and II

The City of Ann Arbor requires no on-site parking for as-of-right development within its downtown, while providing 5,770 public spaces throughout the district. By policy, these spaces are self-funding, reigning in urges to overbuild. Some believe this has led to insufficient supplies, with years-long wait lists for monthly permits. Conversely, many longtime residents maintain strong opposition to adding any new parking in the district.

In the summer of 2006, Nelson\Nygaard was contracted to conduct a comprehensive review of downtown parking conditions. The project team inventoried the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority (DDA)'s on- and off-street parking spaces and documented utilization during three key time periods. On-site interviews and windshield surveys solicited parker input on parking and transportation conditions. Results were summarized and presented during a public workshop in December. By quantifying existing conditions, this phase re-shaped and clarified the impassioned debate over whether downtown has too little, too much, or just enough parking.

In January, 2007, Nelson\Nygaard was contracted to use Phase I findings as a basis for developing recommendations for a comprehensive parking policy for downtown. This process began with a week-long round of stakeholder outreach activities intended to present Phase I findings and to frame policy options. Feedback informed preliminary policy and implementation recommendations, which were then vetted through a second round of outreach meetings. A final set of recommendations was presented to the City Council. All recommendations were adopted unanimously in June, 2007.



**Project Duration:** 2006–2007

**Total Budget:** \$180,000

**Contact:**

Phase I

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