

FY 2023 Planning Grant Application

What is the name of this project?

Center City Youngstown Parking Analysis

What community is the lead applicant for this grant?

City of Youngstown

Is this project a collaboration with other communities?

No

Enter the name of the project coordinator

Jordan Karim

Provide a brief description of the project area

The project area consists of the “Downtown” portion of the City. “Downtown” is defined as the area North of the Mahoning River, South of Rayen Avenue, East of Belmont Avenue, and West of Crab Creek.

This section of the City is composed primarily of office space and retail/recreation. Downtown housing consists of residential space above first-floor retail/recreation. Downtown businesses range from retail, restaurants, banks, government offices, legal firms, tech startups, and other professional services.

Downtown contains nearly twenty acres of parking stalls that can host more than 4,800 cars at any given time. An Eastgate utilization study concluded that peak use parking was less than 51% overall and even lower in lots, indicating underutilization of parking. However, as a common perception parking remains in short supply. A distorted market, poor landscaping, and the demand for a select few spaces in close proximity to certain businesses cause this misperception.

How was this location selected for the project?

This area has been identified in numerous planning activities, such as the Downtown Vision and Action Plan (DVAP), the Mahoning River Corridor Plan, Youngstown 2010, and others.

Feedback from stakeholders, business owners, and residents has emphasized the importance of this Downtown Area to the community. DVAP says that “Parking affects property values, travel behavior; development patterns, and is a significant expense to the public as well as private investors. Poor parking management reduces the viability of public transportation, undermines walking, lowers development density, and disrupts the urban fabric. The current parking situation in Downtown is oversupplied and undervalued. If properly addressed, improved quality of service can lead to savings for governments, businesses, developers, and consumers.”

Recent resident feedback during the City’s ARP Survey process specifically identified

“Downtown” and “Downtown Parking” as areas in which improvement was necessary, and wanted.

Describe the issues present within the study area that this project plans to address

This project plans to adequately evaluate the current supply of parking within the City, the demand for parking, and make policy and technology recommendations to the City regarding future investments.

As shared in DVAP “A fully integrated parking system is a primary component of revitalization efforts. Accessible and convenient parking is necessary for economic development. A parking system is a management plan with several parts that govern how on-street and off-street parking is utilized”

Through this project, a framework for sustainable parking management will be developed to ensure the feasibility of a prosperous and bustling Downtown.

Relevance to broader planning efforts

- Downtown Vision and Action Plan - Initiative 6 of the Downtown Vision and Action Plan outlines the creation of a fully integrated and inclusive parking system within Downtown.
- Eastgate Parking Study 2018 - Eastgate’s 2018 study of Downtown parking concluded that the City defines what “ideal parking management” looks like. This project will seek to fulfill that recommendation, providing a solid plan for future investments in parking infrastructure.
- Visualizing Property Tax Mahoning County 2017 Assessment (Eastgate) - The visualization of property tax within Mahoning County shows that urban cores tend to have higher property tax values and will therefore have higher revenues within the county. In order for Youngstown to continue producing higher amounts of tax revenue, a parking management plan must be created to ensure that Youngstown remains viable as the economic driver of the region.
- Economic Recovery Coordination: Mahoning Valley - Initiative 7 Downtown Development

Outline the scope of work required to conduct this planning process

This study will evaluate on-street and off-street parking issues across Youngstown, including but not limited to: parking meters, handicap demand and accessibility, commercial vehicle accessibility, residential parking zones, residential demand, and parking enforcement. City code and parking regulations will also be evaluated.

The goal of this study is to develop practical goals for consolidated parking that account for future supply and demand needs, as well as technological and policy recommendations for the City. The end plan may include recommended changes to City codes, regulations, and enforcement procedures.

The results of this study will be integrated into the City of Youngstown’s parking management strategy.

What is the total cost to develop this plan?

20,000

(Optional) You may use this space to justify the cost of the plan

This cost is in alignment with other similar plans we have viewed while completing this application. This study is supported by both elected leadership and downtown stakeholders.

How much in funding from the Planning Grant is being requested?

12,000

How much local cash match is being contributed to this project?

8,000

Local Cash Match Commitment - *A Letter of Commitment from the lead applicant community confirming the local cash match contribution identified above is required by May 31, 2022. A resolution will be required should your project be selected to receive funding.*

Do you agree to provide the information regarding local cash match contribution as a part of the application process?

Yes

Project Area Map

City of Youngstown

Center City Youngstown Parking Analysis



