

- **Concession: The Future of Parking Management in Chicago** (*Chrissy Mancini Nichols – Metropolitan Planning Council | Lindsay Bayley – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*)

Managing parking to support local business districts requires a balance of supply and demand. Local business districts in Chicago have unique challenges and are not well-suited to a one-size fits all approach. CMAP’s “Parking Strategies to Support Livable Communities” outlines a methodology for understanding local challenges and developing strategies to tackle those challenges. In a recent Local Technical Assistance project with the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce (WPB), staff from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) helped walk the Chamber through those steps. We found that the biggest obstacle to successfully managing parking at the local level is the assortment of restrictions set forth in the Concession Agreement with Chicago Parking Meters that limits a neighborhood’s ability to balance supply and demand.

In this paper, we will describe the process to evaluate WPB’s parking supply and demand, the recommendations offered, a review of how the Concession Agreement will affect parking management for the City, and the bold steps our City Council needs to take to make the most out of our 75-year relationship with parking meters.