

CATS II Parking Study

Overview

The Canal Area Transportation Study, Track II (CATS II) is developing recommendations for transportation improvements for the Canal Street corridor through the collaborative effort of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), the consultant team, a Steering Committee, a Community Stakeholders Committee and a robust public outreach program. CATS II and other initiatives in the area identified that parking is a major issue related to the transportation system. For these reasons, CATS II is adopting an expanded scope for parking data collection and analysis. The goal of the CATS II Parking Study is to address specific issues relating to parking demand, supply and usage in focus areas within the CATS II study area, defined as Houston Street to the north, Chambers Street to the south, the East River to the east and the Hudson River to the west.

The study will consider the needs and interests of multiple constituents, including residents; visitors; area businesses and organizations; the trucking industry and area government agencies. The study will examine current attitudes, perceptions and identify potential solutions that best use parking resources.

Parking issues in the CATS II study area vary depending on many factors, including parking regulations, neighborhood land use and density. The goal of the CATS II parking study is to focus on areas where parking issues are of particular concern to the community, affect transportation operations or both.

The parking study will assess parking issues in the CATS II study area on a neighborhood basis, i.e., Chinatown/Little Italy, the Lower East Side, SoHo, and TriBeCa-Civic Center. A focus area will be selected for each of the four neighborhoods based on specific concerns that are expressed by the community and observed on preliminary field visits/observations. The details of the focus area within each neighborhood will depend on the nature of the parking concerns and will be determined through meetings with stakeholders.

The first phase of the study involves reaching out to the communities in the study area to help identify the focus areas for future efforts. Data collection is expected to start in the spring of 2008.