

## **Business Survey: Carryout Bag Pass-Through Charge**

**Purpose:** The City of Northfield seeks business input on enacting a carryout bag fee similar to those of other cities in Minnesota (Duluth, Edina, Roseville, et al.) to satisfy previously passed Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Plan goals to reduce waste going to our space-limited Rice County landfill site and to reduce the harm to human health from plastics.

**Definitions:** A carryout bag includes a paper, plastic, or reusable bag provided by a retail establishment to a customer at the check stand, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure to transport food or merchandise out of the establishment.

**Methods:** Retailers would collect the pass-through charge paid by consumers when retailers provide carryout bags. Retail establishments would retain the pass-through charge to offset their costs of bags and other related cost to the pass-through charge.

### **Survey Questions**

1) Typically, how often do you estimate a customer uses carryout bags (paper, plastic, reusable) for items sold?

- a) More than 100 times/week
- b) 50-100 times/week
- c) 0-50 times/week
- d) 0 times/week
- e) Unsure

2) If you supply carryout bags, are they (select all that apply):

- a) Paper
- b) Plastic
- c) Reuseable
- d) We don't supply bags

3) Would you support an ordinance for a small pass-through (such as \$0.05 and the business keeps the revenue) surcharge for the use of carryout paper, plastic, and reusable bags?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

4) If you answered yes or maybe in question-3, what is a reasonable minimum pass-through charge amount?

- a) .05
- b) .10
- c) .25
- d) 1.00
- e) An amount more than \$1.00

5) Would a pass-through charge impact your business operations?

- a) Negatively
- b) Positively
- c) Neutral
- d) Unsure

6) How can the City help you prepare if an ordinance is passed that requires merchants to charge customers a fee for carryout bags? (Select all that apply)

- a) Host an event to talk with businesses about best practices for implementation (i.e. employee training, systems updates, tracking and reporting, customer relations, how to use the revenue).
- b) Recognition of early adopters.
- c) Inform the community of upcoming changes with media and in-person efforts.
- d) Assist with signage at establishments.
- e) Establish a 1-year grace period.
- f) Additional implementation suggestions. (Please add any comments you might have)

7) How else could Rice County accomplish its goal of reducing waste? (Please add your comments)

8) What other questions or comments arise about this potential carryout bag ordinance?

9) Is your business located in any of the following?

- a) Northfield
- c) Rice County, other than NF
- d) Dakota County
- d) Other Outside of Rice or Dakota County