

Residential Survey: Carryout Bag Pass-Through Charge

Purpose: The City of Northfield seeks community input on the enactment of a carryout bag fee similar to 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 reduce the harm to human health of needlessly produced plastics.

Definition: Carryout bag includes a paper, plastic, or reusable bag provided by a retail establishment at the check stand, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment.

Method: Retailers would collect the pass-through charge paid by consumers if retailers provide carryout bags. The pass-through charge would be retained by retail establishments to offset their costs of bags and other related costs to the pass-through charge.

Survey Questions

1) How often do you use retailer-supplied carryout bags (paper, plastic, reusable) for items purchased?

- a) More than 20 times/week
- b) 19-10 times/week
- c) 9-1 times/week
- d) 0 times/week (I bring my own or use store-supplied, reused boxes)
- e) Unsure

2) If you use retailer-supplied carryout bags, are they (select all that apply):

- a) Paper
- b) Plastic
- c) Reuseable
- d) Unsure

3) Do you support an ordinance establishing a modest pass-through charge, retained by retailers for the use of carryout paper, plastic, or reusable bags?

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

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 purchase experience?

- 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) Inform the community of upcoming changes with media and in-person efforts.
- b) Send a postcard in the mail notifying me that this change is coming.
- c) Assist with signage at establishments.
- d) Additional implementation suggestions. (Please add any comments you might have)

7) How else could Northfield and Rice County accomplish their goal of reducing waste?

(Please add your comments)

8) What other questions or comments do you have about this possible carryout bag ordinance?

(Please add your comments)

9) Are you a resident of any of the following?

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