

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Downtown Parking Meter Reduction Project

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

Sep 28, 2012 2:54:29 PM

1. Is your business, property, or place of employment located in the "Meter Reduction Trial" area? (Shaded areas of the map - click here)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	44	44.8%
No	55	56.1%
Total	98	100%

2. Is your business, property, or place of employment located in the "Meter Trial 2 hour parking" area? (Shaded purple on the map - click here)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	24	24.4%
No	74	75.5%
Total	98	100%

3. One goal of this trial was to increase the number of cars parking in these areas. Did we meet that goal?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	48	49.4%
No	7	7.2%
Unknown	42	43.2%
Total	97	100%

4. Were you, your employees, or coworkers able to find "free on street parking" during this trial period?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I had to come to work earlier to get a space though.	8	8.2%
Yes, I was able to park closer to my destination.	39	40.2%
Yes, I had to park further away from my destination.	12	12.3%
No, the area was full and I had to park in a parking garage or parking lot.	9	9.2%
No, I park in a parking garage or an off street parking lot.	31	31.9%
Total	97	100%

5. What effect did the "bagged" meters have on your customers?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
My customers were not impacted by the "bagged" meters.	25	25.7%
My customers liked not having to pay the meter and were able to find a close	21	21.6%
My customers had to park further away.	8	8.2%
My customers went somewhere else because the on street parking was not	5	5.1%

N/A	40	41.2%
Total	97	100%

6. Did the "2 hour" bags, installed in May 2012, impact your customers parking?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, my customers found the bags an improvement to the "Free Bags".	6	6.2%
Yes, my customers found the "2 hour" bags a detriment and spaces were	12	12.5%
No	28	29.1%
N/A	50	52.0%
Total	96	100%

7. During the meter trial, many yellow-top 10 hour meters were covered with "Free" parking bags. What impact did that have on you or your employees?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
We were happy about it and did not have to pay for parking permits or walk	31	31.9%
We found it very difficult to park at these spaces because they were filled by	19	19.5%
N/A we do not utilize these spaces.	48	49.4%
Total	97	100%

8. If the Parking Division increased the number of 10 hour parking meters, what is the MOST you would be willing to pay for a monthly permit?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
\$15	41	43.6%
\$20	32	34.0%
\$30	22	23.4%
Total	94	100%

9. During the past several months, how easy was it for you to find a parking space anywhere in downtown Billings?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very easy	15	15.3%
Easy	56	57.1%
Not very easy	29	29.5%
Total	98	100%

10. During the past several months, how easy was it for your employees to find a parking space anywhere in downtown Billings?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very easy	8	8.3%
Easy	32	33.3%
Not very easy	21	21.8%
N/A	35	36.4%
Total	96	100%

11. During the past several months, how easy was it for your customers to find a parking space anywhere in downtown Billings?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very easy	7	7.2%
Easy	35	36.0%
Not very easy	30	30.9%
N/A	25	25.7%
Total	97	100%

12. Please leave your final comments, below. And thank you.

46 Response(s)

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12. Please leave your final comments, below. And thank you. - Responses

Answer
Some establishments could utilize more 15 min parking zones for quick in and out service downtown.
I live downtown at 107 N Broadway in low-income housing. The free parking trial period was extremely helpful to me and my child. We liked walking the few blocks to save money. At most, I would park overnight, and by 11 am I was out each day. It was a relief to see I had the option to save money. Please bring back free parking.
loved this idea!
I would much prefer parking in an area that would allow me to walk a distance to a particular destination, a mentality exist that if I can't park directly in front of a destination I'm not going to shop. Billings citizens need to get out and WALK
Frankly, I'm willing to pay to park for convenience. During the free parking period (Transwestern area on N. 31st)it was very difficult to find parking in the afternoon that was as convenient as paid parking.
The area around Lincoln Center is challenging with the loss of the library lot. Other than that I think the test program was a success and would support making it permanent.
Not faulting the trial, but i'd like to see more consistency in meter location and pricing
Go back to the way the trial was and make it permanent.
If the results were that is was a net gain in budget dollars we ought to continue the process.
Depending on the time of day parking was ok. During Lunch it was hard to find a spot due to employees of businesses parking in front of our business. We have taken care of this issue. I saw meter peolpe driving around the same spot every 20 minutes so this means they have more than enough time to patrol the Free meters.
The hardest time to park downtown is during lunch. If it is before 11:30 or after 1:30 a parking spot is easier to find.
Would love to see free meters return all around the YMCA.
I would simply eliminate all parking meters. They are a net deterrent to downtown visitation and could be creatively replaced with time-limited parking zones.
I observed many more vehicles parked in the 10 hour free spaces than when metered. I think it encouraged some of those that work downtown to park and walk the couple blocks to work to save on money.
This had to be the worst thought out thing I've seen, no enforcement buisness owners and employees taking every available spot for blocks! I am looking at moving to the westend as your lovely trial almost put me out of buisness.

<p>My answer on 11 reflects that we still have a ways to go before making parking downtown "easy" to many retail customers. Having the free parking outside the core encourages employees to park for duration, opening possibilities for greater customer parking in the core. This deters employees from shuffling on core meters.</p>
<p>Me and my employees, and customers wish the parking garage on 3rd ave, between 29th and 30th streets was still open for hourly parking.. It is extremely hard to find a space to fit in the other garages with a full sized vehicle...</p>
<p>Park 1 was a place where many of our employees and customers parked. Many of our employees are temporary or part time and used the hourly parking. Since Park 1 is no longer available to them and Park 4 is now private there is little to no parking for them in reasonable proximity to our business. Many arrive later in the day and leave late.</p>
<p>We have way too many meters. remove them</p>
<p>Our business location is at the corner of: <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Avenue South & South 24th Street. We <input type="checkbox"/> were not impacted by any of the Billings <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Meter changes.</p>
<p>We are located south of the tracks, 1 south broadway, we have tons of empty metered spaces all around us. Our employees can't use them because of the cost, and we don't have customers who stay here longer than 10 minutes. We would prefer to have variety of options, some ten minute parking, some full day, some monthly, etc. Thank you.</p>
<p>I think this is a step in the right direction. Good job!</p>
<p>#5 needs more answer options. Bagged meters were extremely helpful to our shoppers as employees could park there and free up 2 hour meters closer to shopping district. <input type="checkbox"/> The increased fines are outrageous and have severely impacted our customers willingness to continue shopping downtown. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue the bagged meters on the periphery. Nix hi fines.</p>
<p>The parking in Downtown Billings is clearly a joke, especially the enforcement people. Why not go to credit card machines and advanced systems rather than use a 1960's method. Maybe you should have the enforcement guy ride a horse. What a joke the Parking Dept is.</p>
<p>The 10 minute parking and the 2 hour parking in front of my business is now being used by employees of other businesses. This makes it very difficult for my customers to find parking.</p>
<p>Liked not having to park 3+ blocks away from work. Not very fun in the cold/dark of winter</p>
<p>Please have more yellow-top meters.</p>
<p>I wish there were NO meters what so ever. I wish that parking would simply be limited to 2hrs. and the a stiff fine.</p>
<p>I was skeptical of the plan at first, thinking it would be more difficult to find parking - but every time i've needed to park downtown i find a spot relatively easily. Also, our business was in the area that meters were removed, so we and our customers are pleased. Keep up the great work downtown!</p>

<p>make the garages for staff and employees of the business's available to park in at a reasonable rate, and allow the downtown shoppers to use the on street parking. let the meters be sponsored by business's and work out a deal with the business's to hand out tokens to use at the meters. maybe, that might work. how do the big cities handle it?</p>
<p>The test period had an undefined objective and provided no information that was useful. Lets privatize downtown parking and get ride of the parking devison. Everyone would benefit.</p>
<p>We found it very strange when the "free bags" came off. We hadn't heard what was going on so it was confusing. My biggest complaint about the time of the experiment was it seemed that there was less enforcement even in the areas which still had meters. I also think some of the free areas were too close to busier areas.</p>
<p>My employees would love 10 hr meters in central downtown even though we provide paid parking in the garages.</p>
<p>Our store was not in the area that was free, but I would strongly welcome 2hr free parking across the entirety of Downtown--with 10hr spots on the periphery. Our business would benefit greatly. It is the single biggest problem for our retail store on Broadway. Our customers can't find parking close to our store--as those spots don't turn over.</p>
<p>The general consensice seems that customers like street parking moreso than the garages, while employees struggle to the get high demand of decent parking garage spaces and even some of the bagged sections.</p>
<p>The free parking meters made sense because they were primarily in front of businesses (such as YMCA) that has a constant flow of people that don't expect to pay for parking. I just got a \$10 fine and not happy with it. It seems a little extreme for a one time offense.</p>
<p>we need meters, otherwise employees would park near their place of employment and there would be no spaces- so, really, I think parking is not too bad. You might have to walk a block, but that is good for everyone. It would help if we could purchase tokens at a reduced price to give our customers. Otherwise, it's not that bad.</p>
<p>I am not a business owner but between construction and many events parking was an absolute disaster. The free meters were very nice but a ways away from the functions.</p>
<p>It was very nice and I had a lot of comments from patrons that it was nice to be able to park on the street near our destination without having to pay. I also had comments that it was a little harder to find spots on occassion because they we so well used.</p>
<p>Would really like to see the free parking come back. Our members really liked having a closer spot to park especially our older members.</p>
<p>I think it's a great concept and would like to see it continue.</p>
<p>It is clear to us that no parking meters at all are better in all ways for our business and our customers. □ Tax monies could also be saved, as we would not need city employees to enforce and collect and maintain. We could reduce our spending and we would reduce the need for meaningless jobs that hurt our society and drain our productivity.</p>
<p>would like to keep meters around these areas free of charge. helps with parking.</p>

We pay for parking for our staff in a garage. I see many employees of other businesses running out and plugging meters. This is ridiculous. My customers have a hard enough time getting downtown without not being able to park. One of the worst is Jimmy John's. Their delivery people take up most of the meters on 2nd.

I do not want downtown to die. Cheaper better parking would help. The Downtown bums always asking for money needs to go to save downtown

My staff liked the \$15 monthly meter permit. They always knew where they could park and how long it would take to get to work. It was more consistent