

**City of Edina**  
**Potential Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance**  
**Community Engagement Summary Report**  
**June 5, 2023**

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**Project Overview**

In early 2023, the Edina City Council (Council) directed staff to draft an ordinance proposal requiring that all City of Edina merchants, including retail establishments and restaurants, charge a minimum \$0.05 fee to customers for all carryout bags. The potential ordinance is envisioned to:

- Require that merchants charge a minimum \$0.05 for all carryout bags, regardless of bag material
- Allow the retail establishment or restaurant to keep the fee for use at their discretion
- Require businesses to report to the City annually the quantity and type of carryout bags purchased and distributed customers as well as the fee amount collected

This initiative follows Council's 2022 approved work plan initiative for Edina's resident volunteer Energy & Environment Commission (EEC) to "Revise and update EEC's 2017 report on possible recommendations for a plastic bag ordinance" with a deliverable of an "updated report with recommendation." The potential carryout bag fee ordinance meets several goals established in the City's Climate Action Plan approved in December 2021, including:

- Strategy WM 1: Decrease total per-capita municipal solid waste handled 5% by 2030, *in part by:*
  - WM 1-5: Eliminate petroleum-based, single-use products through phasing out the use of single-use plastics, including plastic bags, by 2025

On February 7, 2023, the EEC recommended to Council that "...the City require that merchants charge a \$.05 fee to customers for carryout bags. EEC asks Council to direct staff to write an ordinance that updates City Code to include this requirement and implement an outreach plan to inform residents and businesses of this requirement." Council received this recommendation and directed staff to draft an ordinance and seek public feedback.

During April and May 2023, City staff sought broad-based public feedback from Edina residents and businesses regarding the potential carryout bag fee ordinance. This report provides a summary of the community engagement methods employed to elicit public feedback and the responses, opinions and suggestions received from the Edina community.

## Community Engagement Outreach Methods and Promotion

City Sustainability Manager Grace Hancock and project consultant Ann Tennes, President, Ann Tennes Communications, LLC, employed the following public feedback outreach methods during April and May 2023:

- **Better Together Edina webpage** to share information on the potential carryout bag fee: <https://www.bettertogetheredina.org/carryout-bag-ordinance>
- **Online survey modules** created and linked from the Better Together Edina project webpage
  - Posted from April 14 through May 15
  - Initial survey question sorted respondents into either resident, visitor or business modules
- **Virtual roundtable discussions** scheduled on May 5, 10 and 11
- **One-on-one interviews** with Edina business leaders, owners, managers and corporate representatives

City staff promoted the availability of these public feedback opportunities through the following outreach platforms:

- Print ad featured on page two of the May 2023 *Edition: Edina*
- Virtual ads featured in the Edina Chamber of Commerce weekly e-newsletter and both the Edina Rotary and Morningside Rotary Club weekly e-newsletters
- CivicPlus email to Sustainability newsletter subscribers
- Video segment featured in the early May *Agenda: Edina* video
- Social media posts featured across City channels

## Community Engagement Results

Following is a summary of the participation in and public feedback received from each community engagement method:

### **Better Together Edina site**

Between April 14 and May 30, the project page received 994 views. 555 visitors interacted with some part of the project page (clicking on a link, downloading a document), and 215 visitors engaged with the survey tool.

### **Surveys**

Between April 14 and May 15, a total of 201 residents, five business representatives and four visitors responded to the surveys linked from the Better Together Edina website. The responses are summarized in this report, and the entire data sets, with respondent identification information removed, are attached. (Exhibits 1, 2, 3)

## Resident Responses - Executive Summary

In general, Edina residents responding to the online survey did not favor a carryout bag fee, with some support for a voluntary fee and less support for a mandatory carryout bag fee requirement. Residents expressed a desire for expansion to weekly recycling collection, concerns about a carryout bag fee being government overreach and the need for the City to focus more on waste reduction from apartments and schools. Of the three residents who signed up for the virtual roundtable discussions, two were generally in favor but had specific questions, and one was opposed. Clearly, the online survey was the most effective method of eliciting opinions from Edina residents.

## Resident Responses - Online Survey

### *1. How Residents Currently Interact with Carryout Bags*

- Survey question: How often do you reuse carryout bags, if at all? Examples include: plastic bags for trash liners, paper bags for recycling, etc.
  - Possible answers:
    - Never
    - Rarely
    - Sometimes
    - Very Often
    - Always
  - How Edina residents answered:
    - Highest incidence of reuse as indicated by 'Always' response
      - Brown paper bags - 47 percent
      - Plastic bags - 29 percent
      - Reusable bags - 28 percent
    - Lowest incidence of reuse as indicated by 'Never' response
      - Compostable bags - 29 percent
      - Reusable bags (plastic bags) - 15 percent
      - Reusable bags (cotton or fabric) - 13 percent
- Survey question and possible answers (Figure 1):

For what kind of trips do you use reusable bags? Check all that apply.

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- I do not use reusable bags.
- Grocery store trips
- Errands to smaller stores like pharmacy trips, corner stores, etc.
- Errands to larger stores like Target
- Shopping at multiple stores like a shopping mall or shopping district (e.g. 50th and France)
- Other (please specify)

**Figure 1**

In response to this question, some 61 percent of residents reported using reusable bags most frequently for grocery store trips, least frequently when shopping at multiple locations, and some 19 percent indicated they never use reusable bags.

## 2. Resident Support for a Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance

- Survey question and possible answers (Figure 2):

**What per-bag fee level would stop you from purchasing a carryout bag?**

(Choose any one option) (Required)

\$0.01

\$0.05

\$0.10

\$0.25

\$1.00

**Figure 2**

Nearly 27 percent of residents said that even a \$0.01 fee would preclude them from using a carryout bag. On the opposite end of the scale, more than 23 percent of residents said the carryout bag fee would need to reach \$1.00 per bag to stop them from purchasing a carryout bag.

- Survey question and possible answers (Figure 3)

**Please rank the following options from most to least preferable.**

(Rank each option) (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_ No carryout bag fee is implemented.

\_\_\_\_\_ A carryout bag fee is implemented where all merchants are required to charge customers per carryout bag

\_\_\_\_\_ A carryout bag fee is implemented that merchants can participate in voluntarily.

**Figure 3**

When residents were asked to rank three options from most to least preferable, with one being their most preferred option and three their least preferred, responses fell in this average-rank order:

- No carryout bag fee is implemented - 1.74 average ranking, meaning that this option was the most preferable to residents

- A carryout bag fee is implemented that merchants can participate in voluntarily - 2.04 average ranking, indicating that most residents ranked this their second choice
- A carryout bag fee is implemented with all merchants required to comply - 2.22 average ranking, placing this as the least preferred option by a small margin

- Survey question and possible answers (Figure 4)

Do you think the following bag types should include a fee to a customer to receive them when making a purchase? This does not include any bags the customer brings themselves.

(Required)

Questions	Yes	No	Maybe	I don't know enough to answer
plastic bags				
paper bags				
compostable bags				
reusable bags				

**Figure 4**

- When asked whether a per-bag fee should be implemented for various types of carryout bags, residents generally:
  - Favored a fee for plastic bags; while plastic bags received the highest number of yes responses regarding a potential fee, at 96, the number of no responses for requiring a fee per plastic bags was slightly lower at 88
  - Did not favor a fee for paper, compostable or reusable bags, with only 50, 29 and 50 affirmative responses, respectively

- Survey question and possible answers (Figure 5)

Would you prefer to shop at businesses that provide a credit or rebate for customers bringing their own bag or bags?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

Yes

No

Other (please specify)

**Figure 5**

More than 56 percent of residents said they would prefer to patronize a business that provided a credit or rebate for customers bringing their own bag or bags, with nearly 38 percent saying they had no preference. In tandem with this, residents were asked to respond yes or no regarding their willingness to participate in a reusable bag supply or exchange program such as the Bull City Boomerang Bag initiative. Resident responses evidenced somewhat low interest, with just over 36 percent of residents saying they would participate and nearly 64 percent indicating they would not participate.

### 3. Resident Suggestions for City Education for a Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance

- Survey question and possible answers (Figure 6)

How can the City help you prepare if an ordinance is passed that requires merchants to charge customers a fee per carryout bag? Please rank these items in order of most to least helpful.

(Rank each option) (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_ Receive a free reusable bag from the City

\_\_\_\_\_ Receive a postcard in the mail notifying me that this change is coming

\_\_\_\_\_ signage at stores I frequent, like grocery stores and malls

\_\_\_\_\_ City presence at events I'm already attending, to share information on the coming change

\_\_\_\_\_ City offer a standalone event to inform residents of the coming change, that I can attend

**Figure 6**

When asked to rank five options on how the City might help them prepare if a carryout bag fee ordinance is passed, with one being their most preferred option and five their least preferred, responses fell in this average-rank order:

- Informational signage at grocery stores, malls and other stores - 1.94 average ranking, placing this as the most desired option
- Receive a postcard in the mail with notice of the coming change - 2.61 average ranking
- Receive a free reusable bag from the City - 2.61 average ranking
- City presence at events I'm already attending to provide information on the coming change - 3.44 average ranking
- City offer a standalone informational event on the coming change - 4.40 average ranking, placing this as the least preferred option

#### *4. Resident Responses to Open-Ended Questions Regarding a Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance*

In addition to the mandatory, multiple-choice or ranking questions, the survey also featured two open-ended questions, including: *How else could the City accomplish its goal of reducing waste in Edina?*

The 138 residents who responded to this question had varied opinions, both in support of and in opposition to the potential carryout bag fee ordinance, and provided numerous suggestions. Some of the predominant themes and percentages they were cited include:

- Potential ordinance is government overreach - 23 percent
- Expand to weekly recycling collection, expand recyclables accepted, enhance education - 23 percent
- Ban plastic bags completely - 12 percent
- Work with businesses on providing incentives for customers to bring their own bags - 10 percent
- Focus on business, school and apartment recycling programs - 8 percent

A brief selection of unedited comments received in response to the first open-ended question includes:

- “Banning plastic bags.”
- “Government over step on the bag issue. People create waste. Taxing bags is not the answer.”
- “Dedicate time, money, and resources to find innovative ways to reduce waste rather than simply charging residents more money for everyday activities.”
- “weekly recycling option or place to drop off overage. We fill our recycling each week b/c we get the paper and recycle everything we can. When we are out of town on a recycling week, no way can we fit 4 weeks of recycling into one bin.”
- “Recycling every week versus every other week.”
- “support a recycled bag program”

The second open-ended question asked *What other questions do you have about this proposal?* Some of the primary themes cited by the 95 residents who responded to this question includes:

- Government overreach; don’t favor the ordinance - 21 percent
- Concern about businesses retaining bag fees and using it at their sole discretion - 14 percent
- Should ban or impose fees on plastic bags only - 7 percent
- Support expressed for the carryout bag fee - 6 percent
- City should work with big box retailers and delivery services to reduce waste - 5 percent
- Equity concerns regarding impact on residents with lower incomes - 4 percent
- Concern for impact on businesses; will shop outside of Edina - 3 percent

A brief selection of unedited comments in response to the second open-ended question includes:

- “I do not feel the merchant should keep the bag fee, but that it should be donated to a local environmental resource. Put that money back into the city.”
- “If the per bag fee passes, it will only push me further to continue to shop in EP. Being in western Edina it is cheaper for us to shop there (tax levies, bag fees...)”
- “Since we are a first ring suburb, I suggest we adopt a bag ordinance that is the same as the one that Minneapolis has.”
- “Why not just eliminate plastic bags? Why charge for them and put that on the consumer? The stores should be responsible for the waste they create by offering poor choices.”
- “Why include paper bags?”

### Visitor Responses

A total of four responses were received from individuals who indicated they do not live or work in Edina. Note: a total of five responses are included in the attached Visitor Survey Response Report, but one response was a project administrator survey test. The four visitor responses to the abbreviated survey module available to them generally evidenced support for the potential carryout bag fee ordinance, with one dissenting about applying the fee to paper bags and two

dissenting about its application to reusable bags. Two responses to the open-ended questions in the abbreviated survey module centered on equity, with respondents wondering if the fee would be assessed to individuals utilizing food assistance programs. Two comments stressed the need for additional education and one supported banning single-use carryout containers/utensils.

### **Virtual Roundtable Discussions**

Three one-hour, virtual roundtable discussions were scheduled to begin with a brief, educational presentation followed by open discussion with several question prompts. Due to low enrollment, only one virtual roundtable discussion occurred, with a second modified to a one-on-one discussion:

- Business Roundtable, May 5, 7:30 a.m. - canceled due to no enrollment
- Resident Roundtable, May 10, 7 p.m. - two residents participated:
  - Concern about abundance of plastic bags used for carryout/curbside pick up orders, particularly from Target and grocery stores
  - Suggest the City work with these retailers toward reduced bag usage and possible pilot initiative
  - Concern about carryout bag fee burden on small businesses; suggested giving them additional time for compliance
  - Stressed importance of educating small retailers to track and code any bag fees received as 'other revenue' for tax reporting purposes
  - Concern about whether a carryout bag fee will shift consumer spending to other nearby communities without similar fees
  - Suggest the City increase recycling and composting
  - Suggest the City "get rid of plastic bags"
- Business and Resident Roundtable, May 11, 11:30 a.m. - one resident registered and participated in one-on-one discussion:
  - "Getting more and more concerned about the processes and excessive taxes."
  - Concern about the businesses retaining the carryout bag fee revenue: "...could be used for something not environmental..."
  - If the focus is to reduce, then impose a ban, not a fee
  - Sanitation concerns about bag reuse with carryout food
  - Concern with logistics required of businesses: "Will deter economic development. New businesses will look at other communities with less regulations."
  - Concern over required online survey registration compromising anonymity and questioned whether survey reached all socio-economic sectors of the community

### **One-on-One Business Interviews and Business Survey Module Responses**

Two outreach methods were used to gain insights from the Edina business community regarding the potential carryout bag fee ordinance. The most successful method of gathering opinions took place during one-on-one conversations with select business representatives. In addition, opinions from five business representatives were gained through responses to a separate online survey module in the Better Together Edina project web page.



### Business Outreach - Executive Summary

Edina businesses largely do not support implementation of a carryout bag fee. The one-on-one conversations with Edina business representatives proved the most productive and effective manner of gaining their insights on the potential ordinance. A few reflections on these conversations include:

- Large retail businesses, both chain and independent, tend to understand the City's interest in a carryout bag fee to further its sustainability goals, and are ready to gear up for compliance
- Small businesses, particularly upscale, independent retailers, were more likely to oppose the ordinance, citing reporting requirements as one of the main areas of concern.
- Both large and small businesses expressed concern about the impact of ordinance compliance on customer relations
- Small businesses in particular are expecting a robust community outreach and education effort from the City regarding the onset of a carryout bag fee requirement

Opinions received from business representatives through the online survey the largely mirrored those heard during the one-on-one interviews, with the exception that four out of the five survey respondents cited preferring a longer lead time of more than 12 months to prepare for compliance by contrast to shorter preferred lead times cited by interviewed business representatives as detailed in Figure 12.

The business representatives that participated in the one-on-one interviews were generally appreciative of the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns about the potential carryout bag fee ordinance and its impact on their operations and customer relations efforts.

### One-on-One Business Interviews and Business Survey Module Respondent Overview

A total of 24 one-on-one conversations were held with Edina business representatives; 21 of these conversations lasted between 20 and 40 minutes and three lasted five to 10 minutes. Five business representatives responded to the online survey module. Businesses and the representatives participating in the one-on-one interviews included:

- Respondent demographics - interviews
  - 16 women
  - Eight men
- Respondent demographics - online survey
  - Unknown
- Respondent position - interviews
  - Two shopping center managers
  - 10 business owners
    - Four minority business owners
  - Nine business managers
  - Four administrators/managers

- Respondent position - online survey
  - Four business owners
  - One business employee
  
- Business size and longevity in Edina - interviews
  - 15 independent retailers or restaurants
  - Six franchises (one of which included conversations with both local and corporate representatives)
  - Longevity in Edina ranged from one year to nearly 75 years in business
  
- Business size and longevity in Edina - online survey
  - Two independent retailers or restaurants
  - Two franchises
  - One institution
  - Longevity in Edina ranged from two years to more than 70 years in business
  
- Business type - interviews
  - 12 retail stores
  - Five restaurants
  - Four include both restaurant and retail
  
- Business type - online survey
  - Two retail stores
  - Two restaurants
  - One institution

A list of all businesses contacted for the one-on-one interviews is attached as Exhibit 4. Of the three very short conversations that took place in addition to the 21 longer interviews, two business representatives said their firm will comply with whatever the City requires and one was strongly opposed to a potential carryout bag fee but did not wish to be interviewed.

Managers of two restaurants, one each a franchise and independent, participated in one-on-one interviews and the owners of those restaurants subsequently took the online survey. The online survey data attached as Exhibit 2 is presented anonymously.

#### Amount and Types of Bags Used - Interviews and Online Survey

- **Businesses were asked to estimate the type and range of carryout bags distributed monthly (e.g., 1-100, 101-500, 501-1,000, etc.). Bag types included plastic, brown paper, paper bags (not brown), compostable bags, reusable bags (plastic) and reusable bags (cotton or other fabric).**

Both business representatives who were interviewed and who responded to the survey estimated a wide range on the number of bags distributed each month, from 50 to 150,000. Most of the businesses distribute between 500 and 1,000 per month.

A majority of businesses interviewed distribute paper bags, either exclusively or combined. (Figure 7A)

Type of Bag or Bags	Plastic only	Paper only	Paper and Plastic	Paper and Cloth	Plastic and Canvas	Canvas or Cloth Bags for Sale
Number of Businesses	2	8	6	1	1	3
Independent		6	5	1	1	1
Franchise	2	2	1			2

**Figure 7A**

A majority of businesses responding to the survey also distribute paper bags, either exclusively or combined. (Figure 7B)

Type of Bag or Bags	Plastic only	Paper only	Reusable Plastic and Reusable Cloth	Paper, Reusable Plastic and Reusable Cloth
Number of Businesses	1	2	1	1
Independent	1	1	1	
Franchise		1		1

**Figure 7B**

Estimated Seasonal Bag Distribution Increases

- **Does your business use more bags than indicated during the holiday months (November-December).**

Business representatives interviewed expressed a range of percentages by which their bag distribution increases during November and December, ranging from 20 to 75 percent. Of the 13 businesses citing an increase, most estimated 20 or 50 percentage increases, with only two citing a 75 percent increase and only one each for 25 and 30 percent increases. Several retailers noted that their seasonal increases occur at other times during the year, such as around Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, spring graduation season, etc. (Figure 8)

Estimated Seasonal Bag Distribution Increases

Type of Business	20 Percent	25 Percent	30 Percent	50 Percent	50 to 75 Percent	75 to 100 Percent
Independent	2	1		5	1	
Franchise	2		1 (mall)			1

Figure 8

Bag Sources and Costs

- **Where do you purchase your business's carryout bags?**

Of the retailers that were able to provide information on their bag supplier both during the interviews and in the online survey responses, the sources broke down as follows: (Figure 9)

Bag Sources by Business Type

Type of Business	Local Supplier	Domestic but not local	Imported
Independent	6	8	2
Franchise	2	1	2

Figure 9

Bag costs for both interviewed businesses and survey respondents varied widely, from \$0.05 for plastic bags to more than \$2.53 for custom, imported paper bags. Of those interviewed who were able to cite bag costs, 11 said they paid less than \$1 per bag for both the paper/plastic bags supplied. A total of six cited per-bag costs of \$1 or more.

Recycling Practices

- **Businesses were asked to describe any regular environmental or sustainability activities in which their business currently participates and whether they accept bags of any type for recycling.**

Nearly all of the businesses indicated that they do some measure of recycling on premises. Most participate in mixed materials recycling, and the larger retailers recycle corrugated cardboard. A total of four businesses, two interviewed and two survey respondents, accept bags back for recycling. None charge customers for this recycling opportunity. The two interviewed businesses include grocery stores (one each independent and franchise) that accept plastic bags for recycling. The plastic bags are taken back by the bag supplier; one grocery outlet indicated the bags are recycled into a lumber composite material. The online survey respondents were both restaurants that accept bags for recycling both distributed only paper bags, one is an independent and the other is a franchise.

Following are additional notes on interviewed business recycling and sustainability efforts:

- Four participate in composting (two each independent and franchise)
- Two donate unsold, prepared foods to Second Harvest (one each independent and franchise)
- One donates \$0.05 to Second Harvest each time a customer brings a reusable bag (franchise)
- Plastic bags distributed from one independent business are made from recovered ocean plastic waste
- One women's retail clothing store invites customers to bring back clothing with their label that is no longer wanted or useful; the clothes are shipped to a central location, repurposed as clothing items and returned to the retail outlet for sale at reduced prices (franchise)
- Another donates unsold prepared foods and scraps to a farming operation for hog feed (franchise)
- Two stated that in the past few years, they have trained employees to ask if customers want a bag which has reduced bag distribution (one each independent and franchise)
- In the late fall and winter, a craft store holds gatherings where customers bring in surplus yarn to knit hats, mittens and scarves for distribution through social service organizations (independent)

Following are additional notes on recycling and sustainability efforts of businesses responding to the online survey:

- One franchise composts fruit and vegetable waste
- One independent encourages customers to bring bottles of a cleaning product back for a low-cost refill
- One franchise reduces the store temperature during off hours, uses tissue paper sparingly for wrapping and cites a 25 percent reduction in bag use by talking to customers and promoting less bag usage on social media platforms

#### Experience with Carryout Bag Fee Requirements

- **Businesses were asked to detail any experience they had with transitioning to and complying with a carryout bag fee requirement in other communities.**

Three of the interviewed businesses were able to provide information on how they, or a related business, had complied with the carryout bag fee requirement in the City of Minneapolis:

- One independent restaurant manager indicated a sister location in Minneapolis had “no trouble whatsoever” complying with the requirement and that they would react consistently across the company should a requirement go into effect in Edina
- A retail franchise manager who managed a store for the same chain in Minneapolis when the ordinance went into effect offered these insights:
  - Cited no problem with rollout
  - Estimated 90 percent drop in bag usage
  - Staff trained to ask “Do you need a bag today for five cents?”

- When it was raining, staff just gave the bags without charging on a ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ basis
- Was not aware of a reporting requirement to Minneapolis
- Another retail franchise manager received information from the chain’s Minneapolis store, reporting that:
  - While the chain was prepared to report information regarding carryout bag fees, the City of Minneapolis had not yet requested data
  - Plastic bag usage has gone down and reusable bag sales have increased, but the retail manager did not have specific data to cite for the trend

None of the businesses responding to the survey had experience with carryout bag fee requirements; the one affirmative response was part of the site administrator’s test.

#### Support From the City of Edina

- **What support would be helpful for the City of Edina to provide to assist with transitioning customers to the new per-bag fee?**

Business representatives were asked about their interest in/preference for several types of support the City could provide to help with transitioning customers and staff to a carryout bag fee ordinance requirement. The options of providing explanatory signage to post, fact sheets to provide both guidance for staff and information to customers all received similar positive reactions.

In response to this question, and at other times in the conversations, eight business representatives spoke to the need for a ‘robust’ education campaign on City’s part. Other comments received on this questions included:

- “It’s all about communication”
- “Anything to take the blame off of the business”
- “Provide messaging on all City platforms”
- “Market appropriately by City so customers know that small businesses don’t have a choice”
- “Most important that clerks aren’t first person to tell customer about the fee”
- “Outreach must say ‘why’ this is happening”
- “Fact sheets should provide the City’s phone number and website details for residents with questions”
- “It would be great if someone from the City could come train onsite employees”

#### Recommended Bag Exemptions

- **Certain bags, including those used for prescriptions, produce and dry cleaning are likely to be exempt from the requirements. Are there any other bags that you think should be considered for exemption? Please explain.**

Interviewed business representatives were asked what types of bags should be exempt, and many of them favored exempting reusable bags. Other suggestions included:

- Any bags for transactions in excess of \$1,000
- Food carryout bags after restaurant check is paid
- Paper and biodegradable bags
- Small bags for jewelry and other small purchases
- Wax bags for soup containers

In response to this question, online survey respondents suggested exempting:

- Food carryout bags, both for customer pick-up and third-party delivery services
- Reusable bags and gift bags

#### Tracking and Reporting Preferences

- **Businesses will likely be required to track and report information on bag distribution and purchasing changes. What information would be most useful for you to track the impact of the new requirement?**

Business representatives interviewed had strong opinions on potential tracking and reporting requirements to gauge the impact of a carryout bag fee. Approximately half of the business representatives said they understood the need for reporting, and equally preferred reporting fee revenues and/or the number of bags purchased and distributed annually. One corporate representative said they were unaware of any reporting requirements in other cities and locations with bag fee ordinances in effect.

While most larger businesses understood the need for reporting, six small retailers took great exception and consistently expressed that this would just add another 'stressor' to small businesses. One said that reporting was the biggest 'friction' for them and would be very difficult. Another said they already do so much reporting and this would just be another burden without any benefit to them. One business owner said, "Reporting will be difficult and we will never do a good job."

Business representatives responding to the online survey had similar strong opinions. One each independent and franchise business representatives indicated they would be willing to report the number of and type of bags purchased annually. The other three, including two independent and one franchise, said they would not comply as quoted:

- "Uninterested"
- "None. We always ask clients if they want a bag or not, and most, who are being environmentally conscious say no."
- "None of the above information will change how I conduct my business nor impact it."

#### Carryout Bag Fee Revenue Utilization

- **Please detail any initial thoughts on how your business will use the bag fee revenues.**

A majority of the interviewed business representatives said they expected they would simply utilize the revenue to support continued business operations. A few indicated they would likely use the revenue to purchase more bags, and two said they might donate the fees to charity.

One corporate representative said they were unaware of other jurisdictions with similar ordinances in which the retailer retained the revenue. Another merchant noted that the fees would not be considered as revenue. Utilizing correct accounting for carryout bag fee revenues also was referenced in the May 10 virtual roundtable discussion.

Of the online survey respondents who answered this question, one cited it as a ‘nuisance tax’ that they would not assess, one said they would use fee revenue to cover the point-of-sale system retrofit cost and another said they were not sure how they would use the revenue.

Possible Customer Refund or Credit

- **Would your business give a credit or refund to customers bringing their own bag or bags?**

Business representatives were asked if they would consider giving a credit or refund to customers bringing their own bag or bags. Of the online survey responses, four said no and one franchise business representative said it would be up to the corporate system. A number of interviewed merchants had no opinions on this, but approximately 10 of those interviewed said ‘yes’ or ‘maybe’, with only one indicating they absolutely would not do so. A few other comments and notes include:

- One merchant gives a \$5 to \$12 credit for a future purchase to customers bringing their own bag or bags; the variable credit depends on the initial purchase amount
- One specialty retail store owner said they did not want to encourage customers to bring their own bags, as their imported, branded bags are an important component of their marketing efforts

Support for Required or Voluntary Carryout Bag Fee

- **Are you in favor of a required bag fee?**
- **Are you in favor of a voluntary bag fee? Businesses could volunteer to implement a bag fee rather than being required by the City.**

Overall, both business representatives who were interviewed and those who chose to respond to the online survey were not in favor of a required or voluntary carryout bag fee, as illustrated: (Figure 10)

Support for a Required or Voluntary Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance

Carryout Bag Fee	Yes	No	Neutral/No Opinion	Plastic Bags Only
Required	3	16	7	1
Voluntary	8	11	10	

**Figure 10**



Additional comments on a required carryout bag fee include:

- “We are in the middle on this. We are a Green Business but are very concerned how it’s communicated to the community so it’s not punitive. It shouldn’t be done at the expense of small business; it will be hard for small business, easier for large business.”
- “We do have to think about alternate ways to get products home.”
- “I’m in favor of getting things out of the landfill. This could be important for retail users of many bags per week, per year, such as a grocery store.”
- “Super embarrassing to charge for a bag when a customer is making a \$500 jeans purchase. We are not a grocery store.”
- “We take pride in being generous with our customers, and this seems tacky, chintzy.”
- “Not all businesses are the same.”
- “This is a lose/lose situation; customers will view it as a tax and will think businesses are asking for the program.”
- “People are concerned about fees. It will help the environment but people don’t want to pay extra money.”
- “I understand the purpose, but am concerned customers will be annoyed.”
- “This will be difficult to implement fairly.”
- “Paper can be recycled.”
- “I invest in my bags and don’t want to push people away from using them.”

Relative to a possible voluntary fee, those who opposed it generally expressed concern over lack of consistency or a “level playing field” among businesses. One said, “A voluntary fee is just a stepping stone to a requirement.”

Compliance Concerns

- **The online survey module asked businesses to rank various aspects of compliance from easy to difficult:** (Figure 11)

Compliance Issues Ratings by Business Type

Compliance Issue	Very Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Neutral	Easy	N/A
Employee Training	1 (Independent)	1 (Chain)	1 (Chain)	1 (Independent)	1 (Independent)
Systems Update	3 (1 Chain, 2 Independent)	2 (1 Chain, 1 Independent)			
Cost	1 (Independent)		1 (Chain)		2 (1 Chain, 1 Independent)
Customer Relations	4 (1 Chain, 3 Independent)	1 (Chain)			

**Figure 11**

Expected Impact of a Required Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance

- **What do you expect will be the impact of a required fee?**

During the interviews, business representatives expressed a variety of strong opinions about their expectations on how a required carryout bag fee would impact their business. (Figure 12)

Expected Impact of a Required Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance by Business Type

Type of Business	Communication Concerns	Concerns About Customer Relations	Expect Easy Customers Acceptance and Compliance
Independent	5	7	5
Franchise	3 (one mall)		3

**Figure 12**

Specific comments from business representatives include:

- “There will be a few complainers and then people will get used to it.”
- “This will aggravate consumers who are tired of being nickel and dimed.”
- “This will be harder with high-end purchases, but I expect a mixed bag on how people feel about it.”
- “There will be less bag usage and customers will understand.”
- “I will have to add a process to track this for little value.”
- “I fear that it’s not a state-wide standard and customers will shop in another town without a bag fee. We could lose business.”
- I’m concerned that customers will take out their frustrations on employees. We hire people of all abilities and some might not be able to handle customer frustration.”
- “Most people will support it and it will be a non-issue after the initial adjustment.”
- “I don’t think this will impact consumer behavior.”
- “People won’t freak out, but this will take time for staff to explain and they have limited time when we are in a rush.”
- “No one will want bags anymore. The change was remarkable at the Minneapolis location.”
- “Customers will balk, and staff will not support the fee to avoid conflict.”
- “If there is great communication, it will temper concerns. I don’t expect pushback across all customers. Great marketing is needed.”
- “There will be a good impact. Ultimately, customers will come with their own bags and maybe we will have reusable bags for purchase.”
- “We will lose customers, and this will not be well received by new customers.”
- “People won’t mind, but I’m worried about how to incorporate this fee with the frequent DoorDash and Uber Eats orders.”
- “Seniors won’t like it and will be upset.”
- “There will be a certain amount of reduction of plastic bags, but I’m not sure about the impact if applied to paper bags.”

Preferred Amount of Lead Time for Ordinance Compliance

- **If a required carryout bag fee is approved, what amount of lead time would your business need to prepare for implementation?**

As with the online business survey module, business representatives were asked about the amount of time they would need to modify operations for ordinance compliance. Their responses are summarized as follows: (Figure 13)

Preferred Amount of Lead Time for Ordinance Compliance by Business Type

Amount of Lead Time	Less than 30 days	30 days	30 to 45 days	60 days	90 days	120 days +	Did Not Respond
Number of Businesses	5	6	1	2	6	4	5
Independent	3	5	1	1	3	3	
Franchise	2	1		1	3	1	

**Figure 13**

One interviewed business owner commented, “It should be easy if the City provides explanations and resources.”

Reusable Bag Exchange Interest

- **For businesses offering online order and/or curbside delivery, would you consider or be open to implementing a reusable bag exchange program?**

During the interviews, one franchise business representative expressed interest in a reusable bag exchange, with one independent saying they might be interested but noted that customers might be concerned about sanitation. Sanitation concerns were echoed by one independent business representative who said they would not be interested in a reusable bag exchange program. The remainder of the business representatives interviewed were not interested or the question did not apply. None of the businesses that responded to the online survey were interested in a bag exchange program.

Preferred City Communication Method

- **How do you prefer to learn about and stay in-the-know about related City of Edina policies and their associated processes?**

In response to a variety of possible City communications outreach methods to provide businesses with information on the potential carryout bag fee ordinance, business representatives interviewed and those who responded to the survey expressed the following preferences: (Figure 14)

Preferred City Communications Method by Business Type

Type of Business	In-Person Meeting	Virtual Meeting	Through a Business Group	Print Newsletter	E-Newsletter	Business-Specific Website
Franchise	2	3	3	7	7	4
Independent		6	6	11	15	7
Total	2	9	9	18	22	11

**Figure 14**

One business representative added that they are only interested in attending a meeting if feedback will truly be considered. During the interviews, three independent business representatives noted that electronic communications are preferred for sustainability reasons, one saying “due to the spirit of the initiative.” One independent business representative said, “Edina does a good job with emails.”

Additional Comments

- **How else could the City accomplish its goal of reducing waste in Edina?**
- **What other questions do you have about this proposal?**

At the conclusion of the interview, business representatives were asked for any final or additional thoughts:

- “I appreciate the explanation and don’t have issues. Business owners want to work with the City and protect the environment. We need information to show customers to help explain. I think customers will understand and it will be easy.”
- “It feels like you’re swimming upstream with some of these things. It doesn’t make sense for our business. We will likely eat the fee or just comp it.”
- “Use this only for [businesses] who use multiple plastic bags per purchase on a daily basis.”
- “The City of Edina missed the mark on this, as it’s a very difficult time for businesses with state consideration of paid family leave, sick and safe time and other multiple taxes.”
- “We didn’t know until a recent health inspection about the City ordinance requiring recycling utensils, no black plastics, etc.”

- “I am very perplexed by this initiative. I recognize the importance of reducing landfill waste. This is a lot of work for retailers to track. It’s been a tough year for retailers and this will make it tougher. Has it been a roaring success in Minneapolis?”
- “We will adapt.”
- “The City should approach small businesses separately and provide subsidies. The parking requirement is too strict for small businesses; it’s the same for Target. Use common sense. Incentivize sustainability for small businesses.”
- “Offer tax incentives or rebates for businesses that use reusable or compostable bags.”
- “Overall education and PSAs like they did in the 70s when I was growing up.”
- “Grocery/product packaging and Amazon boxes are a greater problem than bags that get reused.”
- “Ban straws.”
- “No other questions but our customers we’ve been talking to about this since January don’t like it and think it’s just another tax.”
- “A charge for paper bags would discourage recycling because it creates a cost to comply where there is no higher price to throw recycling items in the trash.”
- “I use reusable bags all the time but not for food service. It’s just not sanitary.”

## **Final Summary**

### Residents

In general, Edina residents responding to the online survey don’t support a required carryout bag fee, with some support for a voluntary carryout bag fee. Of the three residents who participated in the virtual roundtable discussions, two were generally in favor but had specific questions, and one was opposed. Clearly, the online survey was the most effective method of eliciting opinions from Edina residents.

### Businesses

Edina businesses that both responded to the survey and participated in the one-on-one interviews largely do not support implementation of a carryout bag fee. The one-on-one conversations with Edina business representatives proved the most productive and effective manner of gaining their insights on the potential ordinance. A few reflections on these conversations and the survey responses include:

- During the interviews, large retail businesses, both chain and independent, tend to understand the City’s interest in a carryout bag fee to further its sustainability goals, and are ready to gear up for compliance. The chains responding to the online survey did not express similar understanding and willingness to comply.
- Small businesses, particularly upscale, independent retailers, were more likely to oppose the ordinance, citing reporting requirements as one of the main areas of concern. This was echoed in both the interviews and survey responses.
- Both large and small businesses expressed concern about the impact of ordinance compliance on customer relations, again, this was echoed during both outreach methods.
- Small businesses in particular are expecting a robust community outreach and education effort from the City regarding the onset of a carryout bag fee requirement.

The business representatives were generally appreciative of the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns about the potential carryout bag fee ordinance and its impact on their operations and customer relations efforts.

#### In Conclusion

While Edina residents are somewhat split on their support of a carryout bag fee, businesses tend to oppose the initiative. Extensive community education and outreach, as well as support to Edina businesses - particularly small businesses - will prove essential to successful implementation should the carryout bag fee ordinance receive approval.

Special thanks to City of Edina staff Sustainability Manager Grace Hancock, Economic Development Manager Bill Neuendorf, Edina Police Department Community Engagement Officer Emily Jepson and Community Liaison Lulu Thompson as well as Edina Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Shelly Loberg, Galleria General Manager Wendy Eisenberg and Southdale Center General Manager Judy Tullius for their efforts to identify and provide contacts for the businesses interviewed during this process.

**Exhibit 4  
Businesses Contacted and Interviewed**

**Businesses Interviewed**

<b>Businesses Number</b>	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Person Interviewed</b>	<b>Position</b>
1	Lunds & Byerlys	7171 S. France Avenue South	Grocery	Chain	Brian Miller	Manager
2	Cub Foods	6775 York Avenue South	Grocery	Chain	Dawn Dailson	Assistant Manager
3	Southdale Center	10 Southdale Center	Retail Mall	Chain (Simon)	Judy Tullius	General Manager
4	Eileen Fisher - Retail	3480 Galleria	Retail	Chain	Jane Swanstrom	Manager
5	Eileen Fisher - Corporation	2 Bridge Street, Irvington, NY	Retail	Chain	Joanne Lossino	Director, Omni Operations, Eileen Fisher Corporation
6	CVS	6905 York Avenue South	Pharmacy	Chain	Jeff Hahn	General Manager
7	Barnes & Noble	Galleria	Retail/Cafe	Chain	Elizabeth	Store Manager
8	Jerry's Enterprises	5125 Vernon Avenue South	Grocery	Independent	Steve Troska	Manager

<b>Businesses Number</b>	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Person Interviewed</b>	<b>Position</b>
9	Jerry's Do It Best Hardware	5115 Vernon Avenue South	Retail	Independent	Mike Rummel	Manager
10	Serge + Jane	4532 France Avenue South	Retail	Independent	Casey Carl	Owner
11	Jerry's Do It Best Hardware	5115 Vernon Avenue South	Retail	Independent	Mike Rummel	Manager
12	R.F. Moeller Jeweler	5020 France Avenue South	Retail	Independent	Bryan Moeller	Owner
13	Bluebird Boutique	3909 W. 50th Street	Retail	Independent	Sacha Martin	Owner
14	Harriet & Alice	3922 W. 50th Street, Suite 105	Retail	Independent	Kate Bispala	Owner
15	Truly Genuine Greetings & Gifts	10 Southdale Center	Retail	Independent	Carol Ann Stewart	Owner
16	Muna Beauty Cosmetics	10 Southdale Center	Retail	Independent	Hamdi Guled	Owner
17	Fit by Sha Sha	10 Southdale Center	Retail	Independent	Marie Fields	Owner
18	Parasole Restaurant Group	5032 France Avenue South	Restaurant	Independent	Donna Fahs	Chief Operations Officer
19	Coccinella	4946 France Avenue South	Restaurant	Independent	Umut Kaplan	Owner
20	Edina Grill	5028 France Avenue South	Restaurant	Independent	Stephanie Shimp	Marketing



<b>Businesses Number</b>	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Person Interviewed</b>	<b>Position</b>
22	D'Amico & Sons	3948 West 50th Street C	Restaurant	Independent	Nino E'Andea	Manager
21	The Hilltop	5101 Arcadia Avenue	Restaurant	Independent	Tita	Manager

### **Businesses Contacted But Not Interviewed**

<b>Business Number</b>	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Individual Contacted</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Macy's Southdale Center	10 Southdale Center	Retail	Chain	Erin Demas	Manager	Repeated attempts via phone and email; no response
2	Macy's	7253 South France	Retail	Chain	Keri Jones	Manager	Email and phone calls; no response
3	Walgreen's	Corporate Offices in Deerfield, Illinois	Pharmacy	Chain	N/A	Corporate Offices in Deerfield, Illinois	Calls and email to corporate office; no response
4	Target	Corporate Offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota	Retail	Chain	N/A	N/A	Repeated phone calls and email messages to media relations and human resources; no response
5	Williams Sonoma	3512 Galleria	Retail	Chain	Mary Bandarek	Manager	Said she would have to check with corporate office before speaking; no response to several follow up calls

<b>Business Number</b>	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Individual Contacted</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>
6	Jaxon Grey	3420 Galleria	Retail	Chain	Adam Bevis	Manager	No response to numerous messages left at store
7	Big Bowl	Lettuce Entertain You Corporate Offices in Chicago, Illinois	Restaurant	Chain	Ethan Samson	Deputy General Counsel	Repeated voicemail messages after referral from human resources; no response
8	Starbucks	3939 West 50th Street	Restaurant	Chain	Zachary Rothers	Manager	No response to messages left at store
9	Yumi Sushi	200 Southdale Center	Restaurant	Chain	Angelene Lee	Manager	Said she had to check with corporate and would call back if authorized to participate in an interview
10	Stalk & Spade	3925 West 50th Street	Restaurant	Chain	Lily	Co-Founder	No response to several voicemail messages
11	Coconut Thai	3948 West 50th Street	Restaurant	Independent	Joe	Owner	Could not be reached
12	Wooden Hill Brewery	7421 Bush Lake Road	Restaurant	Independent	Brittany	Marketing	Responded after two weeks when comment period had closed
13	Y&I Collection	Southdale Center	Retail	Independent	Nimo Osman	Owner	No response to messages

<b>Business Number</b>	<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Individual Contacted</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>
14	East West Girl	3931 Market Street	Retail	Independent	Monica	Owner	No response to messages
15	Wooden Hill Brewery	7421 Bush Lake Road	Restaurant	Independent	Brittany	Marketing	Responded after two weeks when comment period had closed
16	50th & France Business Assoc	3902 West 50th Street, Suite C	Business Association	N/A	Max Musicant	Director	Emailed and declined to be interviewed; said they would support and promote to businesses

**June 16, 2023**

**Supplemental Report  
City of Edina Potential Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance Community Engagement  
Prepared by Ann Tennes, President, Ann Tennes Communications, LLC**

This report summarizes information gleaned from virtual meetings held on June 12 and 13, 2023 with representatives of Davanni's Pizza & Hot Hoagies Restaurant/Edina, Hospitality Minnesota, the Minnesota Retailers Association and the Target Corporation. The conversations centered on compliance with and suggestions regarding the City of Edina's potential carryout bag fee ordinance.

Overview

On June 12, 2023, a virtual meeting was held that included representatives of the Target Corporation and the president of the [Minnesota Retailers Association](#) that supports the retail industry in Minnesota by monitoring and providing leadership regarding development of public policy and regulatory measures that impact its members.

On June 13, 2023, a virtual meeting was held with representatives of [Hospitality Minnesota](#), a non-profit membership organization that represents the interests of hospitality businesses across all sectors in Minnesota. The operations supervisor for Davanni's Pizza & Hot Hoagies in Edina, a Hospitality Minnesota member, also attended.

In general, Target Corporation representatives indicated they would comply with any City bag fee requirement and expressed appreciation for a 12-month implementation lead time. The restaurant interviewed expressed concerns about feasibility, logistics and customer relations. These responses mirror those expressed by both large chains and small independent businesses during the April and May 2023 interviews on the potential carryout bag fee ordinance.

The business association representatives generally supported and advocated for their member's positions regarding the potential carryout bag fee ordinance. Hospitality Minnesota leaders expressed strong opposition to the potential carryout bag fee's application to restaurant carryout transactions. The Minnesota Retailers Association representative stated that, generally, mandates are unwelcome and requested that any data gleaned from bag fee ordinance implementation be presented in aggregate form. Both asked that the City of Edina sustainability team remain in contact with them about the carryout bag fee ordinance progress and other initiatives that could impact their members.

**1. Target Corporation and Minnesota Retailers Association**

Notes from June, 12, 2023 conversation with representatives of the Target Corporation and Minnesota Retail Association, including:

- Bruce Nustad, President, Minnesota Retailers Association
- Target Corporation Representatives

- Abigail Donovan - Director Sustainability Policy, Corporate Responsibility
- Eva Gava - Manager Sustainability Governance, Corporate Responsibility
- Lisa Linnell - Manager Sustainability Policy, Corporate Responsibility
- Hue Nguyen - Director Government Affairs, Government Affairs
- Caroline Slettedahl - Lead Business Partner, Store Operations

### Target Sustainability Initiatives Overview

- [20-year plan](#) to reach net zero carbon by 2040 with milestones reached along the way
- Plastics are a focus globally, and are top-of-mind due to plastic pollution
- Target has a goal of removing plastic bags from operations and the company is working on a strategy; will be done in a thoughtful manner which will take time
- The Target Corporation is a member of [Closed Loop Partners](#) and are participating in the Consortium to Reinvent the Retail Bag with multiple retailers across the USA, including CVS, Target and Walmart, that are working together to reinvent the retail bag
  - [Bring Your Own Bag Pilot](#) is currently underway in Arizona and Colorado (two-month pilot project May through July 2023)
  - [Returnable Bag Pilot](#) is currently underway in New Jersey (three month project April 17 through July 17, 2023)
    - Bags are sold brand new (NJ has legislation banning single-use plastic bags)
    - Bags are plain brown and “just ugly enough” that people won’t want to keep them
    - Bring back for cash refund
    - Will be picked up by a third-party vendor, sanitized and returned to stock
- All Target stores currently accept plastic bags for recycling for no cost; bags are aggregated and sent to regional recycling firms throughout the United States
- In Hawaii and New Jersey, laws require that guests can only purchase bags if they don’t bring their own

### Additional Discussion Points

- How much busier is the Edina store versus other stores when it comes to curbside pickup demand?
  - All of the Targets are very busy, particularly with curbside order fulfillment
- Does Target track the number of curbside pickup orders per month in Edina?
  - All orders are tracked
- Does Target track how many bags are used for curbside pickup versus in-store shopping? If so, how do they compare?
  - Yes for curbside fulfillment orders
  - Not for in-store purchases absent bag fee mandates
    - Guest advocates (clerks) are trained to ask if guests need a bag
    - Guests receive a \$0.05 credit for every bag brought in



- Target’s single-use plastic bags are purchased from multiple suppliers, with no specific information on whether domestic or imported
  - Compliance
    - Should a carryout bag fee ordinance go into effect, Target will work with the City to comply
    - The Target team was pleased with the estimated one-year lead time for potential carryout bag fee ordinance compliance
    - Should an ordinance go into effect, Target will develop signage, train employees, etc., as is necessary for compliance
  - Reporting
    - In other jurisdictions where bag fee requirements exist, Target is not required to provide specific bag counts
    - Target will be able to report fee revenue collected, bag order tracking, etc.
      - This data will come from a corporate source, not from the Edina Target
    - Representatives were curious about what the City would do with the data
      - Should the City present data on fee revenue collected, bag order estimates, etc., it is strongly suggested and preferred that the data be shared in an aggregated form without attribution to Target or any other specific retail store

The team invited City of Edina staff to remain in contact with Bruce Nustad and Hue Nguyen as the potential carryout bag fee ordinance progresses, and also to discuss any other possible sustainability initiatives that involve Target or other Edina businesses.

## **2. Hospitality Minnesota and Davanni’s Edina**

Notes from June, 13, 2023 conversation with representatives of the Hospitality Minnesota and Davanni’s Edina Target Corporation and Minnesota Retail Association, including:

- Hospitality Minnesota
  - Angie Whitcomb, President/CEO
  - Jill Sims, Director of Government Relations
- Dave Skilar, Operations Supervisor, Davanni’s Pizza & Hot Hoagies
  - Davanni’s is a local, family-owned restaurant established in 1975 with 20 locations currently operating throughout the Minneapolis area

### Discussion Points

In general, the representatives expressed strong concerns about and opposition to the application of a carryout bag fee ordinance on restaurant carryout transactions.

- Concerns about potential carryout bag fee ordinance application to restaurants
  - Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants have greatly increased the number of carryout transactions and now rely on carryout transactions
  - They do not believe that restaurants anywhere else in Minnesota are required to assess carryout bag fees

- “Food should be exempted.”
  - “Feels like a solution in search of a problem.”
  - “Restaurants cannot take nor do they deserve another mandate.”
  - “This is an overreach on the backs of the hospitality industry.”
  - All favored a plastic bag ban, citing it as being a more impactful sustainability measure
    - “Five cents won’t save the planet, but a plastic bag ban would be a step in the right direction.”
  - Restaurants are already burdened with increased employment and sales tax mandates
  - “Charging five cents per bag sounds good, but it’s a feel-good measure that is very difficult in practice.”
- Specific concerns about a potential carryout bag fee
    - Could be implemented at point of sale but will be very difficult due to lack of uniformity in taxation, etc.
    - Concerned about negative customer interactions
    - If approved and applied to restaurant carryout transactions, should be uniformly applied to both restaurants and meal delivery services such as DoorDash, UberEats, etc.
    - Great concern expressed about whether the fee would be taxable according to Minnesota Department of Revenue requirements
      - Is it a sales tax, swipe fee (credit card fee) or a delivery fee?
      - Must be made abundantly clear to businesses as to how they are to code/report the bag fee and whether or not it is subject to taxation
    - City would need to take the lead on educating the population about a required carryout bag fee
      - Signage similar to the COVID-19 mask mandate signage would be helpful, citing that the City “did a good job” with that signage
  - The Davanni’s representative indicated that they distribute both paper and plastic bags from the Edina location, and promised to follow up with data on the number of bags distributed monthly, per-bag costs and distributor location
  - The Davanni’s representative also indicated they would need more than 120 days to gear up operationally for compliance

### Summary

The themes expressed during these conversations were consistent with those of business representatives interviewed about the potential carryout bag fee ordinance during April and May, 2023.

- After detailing the firm’s commitment to sustainability and focus on removing plastic bags from operations, representatives from the Target corporation indicated they would comply with any City bag fee requirement.



- The restaurant interviewed expressed concerns about feasibility, logistics and customer relations.

Representatives from the Target Corporation noted that the City of Edina is an interested partner for any future sustainability-focused pilot initiatives.

The business association representatives advocated for their member's positions, with Hospitality Minnesota leaders expressing strong opposition to the potential carryout bag fee application to restaurant carryout transactions. The Minnesota Retailers Association representative noted that government mandates always pose challenges for businesses and are not preferred, and also requested that any carryout bag fee compliance data be presented in an aggregate form without attribution to a specific business or businesses.

Representatives from both associations requested that City of Edina sustainability team members remain in contact with them about the progress of the carryout bag fee ordinance and any other initiatives that could impact their members.