

Narrow Gauge Pilot Permit Program Information Sheet

Thank you to the public who provided input and responded to the survey. The survey was intended to gather information on the interest of allowing permitted parking along Narrow Gauge Avenue in an effort to provide additional parking options.

Background:

For the past two and a half years city staff has been working with members of the public to find ways to mitigate and manage parking in the Central Business District. One of the issues staff has been working is parking options for downtown employees, this issue was raised by the Transportation Demand Management and Parking working group in 2013. Since then the city has: provided education and outreach to businesses; presented to employees at more than 10 staff meetings on parking and transportation options; recruited 41 businesses to participate in the City's Way to Go! Club; and reduced rates and extended time limits on meters along 7th, 8th, and 9th streets from Narrow gauge to Camino to incentivize employee parking.

Issue:

The issues we are attempting to mitigate are:

- Relocation of meter posts to increase accessibility by creating an ADA compliant sidewalk along Narrow Gauge.
- Convenient, long term parking for employees of the CBD while maintaining parking options for customers and visitors. We have heard from the public that there is a desire for a program which will allow a person to park closer to where they work and/or shop with the greater flexibility and convenience than the existing parking permits which are restricted to the Transit Center and E 2nd Avenue Parking Lots.

Existing Infrastructure:

Narrow Gauge Ave 600 Block – 1100 block

- 130 meters along Narrow Gauge between 700 block and the 1100 block.
- Based on 2015 annual revenue for these meters Narrow Gauge Ave has an occupancy rate of 40%

Proposed Pilot Program

This pilot program will allow for permitted parking along Narrow Gauge Ave, along with metered Parking. The proposed pilot program will not eliminate metered parking, however, it will allow for an additional parking option. The pilot program is expected to run for one year, at which point the program will be reassessed. During the duration of the pilot program the City will be issuing an RFP

for the relocation of the meters along Narrow Gauge Ave, the design of a pedestrian barrier as part of the relocation.

To determine the pricing schedule for the permit program, staff examined 2015 revenues generated along narrow gauge Avenue. To maintain existing revenues a cost of \$75 per permit is proposed for this pilot program. We anticipate rolling out the pilot program in May of 2016.

Public Comments and Survey Results

Prior to implementing the pilot program staff implemented an online survey and in coordination with BID released the survey via the BID E-newsletter, posted the survey on the City's website, and an article was written in the Durango Herald. The survey ran for 10 days. In total we heard from 49 people via the survey and email comments.

The survey respondents were 61% business owner/managers, and 39% individuals. The respondents were split on whether or not they would participate in a permit program. Of the respondents who said they were interested 36% stated they would purchase semiannual passes, 35 would purchase quarterly, and 29% were interested in monthly permits. A number of respondents requested an annual pass.

The majority of the respondents were resolute in stating that should a program be implemented, metered parking should remain along Narrow Gauge. It was also suggested that the program be extended to include the 600 Block of Narrow Gauge.