

2025 Downtown Parking Study Survey Results

As part of the Downtown Parking Study, currently underway by the Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency (MRA), a survey was initiated to learn about user behavior, opportunities, and constraints experienced by people working, living, and playing downtown.

The survey, which was available for about 6 weeks, from mid-December 2024 to the end of January 2025, received responses from 369 individuals including 225 unique written comments, many of the written responses addressed several topics related to parking in downtown. Of 369 respondents, 74% frequent downtown, with most visiting weekly for events, dining, or work. The majority (71.3%) drive, parking is evenly split between on-street and facilities, and most park near Central Avenue. While 44.3% find parking easy, safety remains a consideration, with 78.4% citing safety concerns, especially at night.

Cost is another challenge, with many, including government employees, frustrated by parking fees. Respondents support more free or affordable parking and favor investments in transit, bike lanes, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Some advocate re-purposing surface lots for housing or businesses. Business owners worry about safety, accessibility, and how parking fees impact customers.

Key Takeaways:

- 44.3% of respondents easily find parking downtown, while only 14.7% find it difficult.
- Most respondents (61.2%) are willing to park a few blocks away from their destination.
- Only 12.1% of respondents strongly prioritize parking close to their destination, while the rest consider finding a spot quickly a more important factor.
- The majority of respondents (54.5%) prioritize saving money when finding parking.
- Only 21.6% of respondents always feel safe when parking and walking downtown.

Written comments:

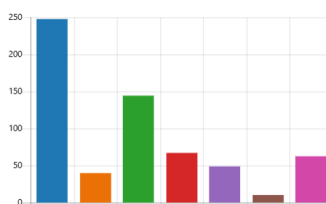
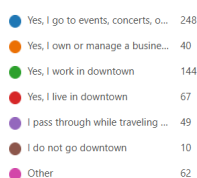
- Many expressed interests in redeveloping parking into housing, businesses, or parks.
- Many expressed their concern for pricing. Employees of downtown businesses don't want to pay to park for work, others said parking is too expensive in general.

Multiple Choice Questions

1) Do you go downtown? Why? Select all that apply

The majority of respondents visit downtown for various reasons, with 40% attending events, concerts, or movies. Additionally, 23% visit for work, 11% live downtown, and 10% cited other reasons. Meanwhile, 8% pass through downtown without spending time there, 7% own or manage a business or restaurant in the area, and 2% do not go downtown at all.

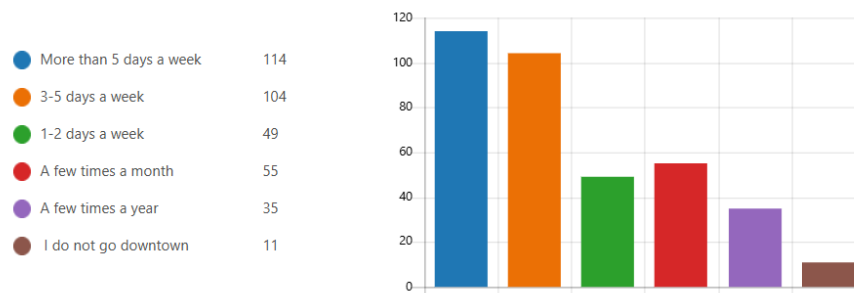
Yes, I go to events, concerts, or movies	248	40%
Yes, I work downtown.	144	23%
Yes, I live in downtown	67	11%
Other	62	10%
I pass through while traveling to other locations, but I do not spend time in downtown	49	8%
Yes, I own or manage a business/restaurant in downtown	40	7%
I do not go downtown.	10	2%



2) How often do you travel downtown?

A majority of respondents (72.6%) visit downtown at least once a week. Among them, 31% go more than five days a week, 28% visit three to five days weekly, and 13% go once or twice a week. Additionally, 15% visit a few times per month, 10% go only a few times per year, and 3% do not visit downtown at all.

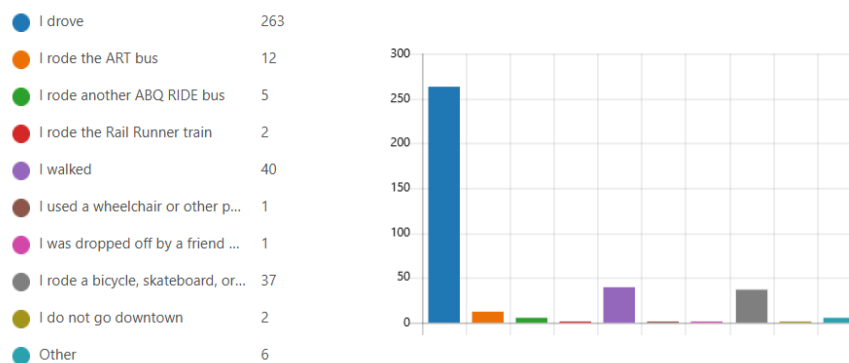
More than 5 days a week	114	31%
3-5 days a week	104	28%
1-2 days a week	49	13%
A few times a month	55	15%
A few times a year	35	10%
I do not go downtown	11	3%



3) How did you travel the last time you made a trip downtown?

The majority of respondents (71%) drove downtown during their last trip. Additionally, 11% walked, 10% used a bicycle, skateboard, or scooter, and 3% rode the ART bus. A small number reported using other methods (2% and 1% for an alternative ABQ Ride bus), while 1% do not go downtown.

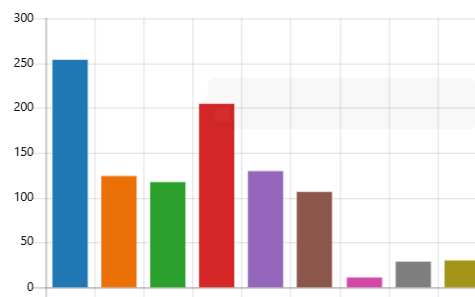
I drove	263	71%
I walked	40	11%
I rode a bicycle, skateboard, or scooter.	37	10%
I rode the ART bus	12	3%
Other	6	2%
I rode another ABQ Ride bus	5	1%
I do not go downtown	2	1%
I rode the Rail Runner train	2	1%
I use a wheelchair or other personal mobility aid	1	0.3%
I was dropped off by a friend, family member, or used a taxi.	1	0.3%



4) In the last month, what kind of trips did you make to downtown?

Most people visit downtown for dining (25%), work (20%), and entertainment (13%), highlighting its role as a hub for social, professional, and cultural activities.

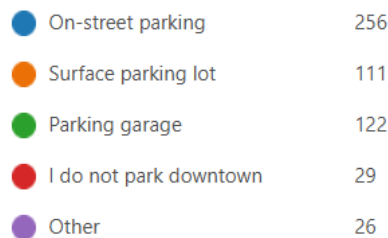
I went to a restaurant or bar	252	25%
I went to work or a business meeting	205	20%
I went out for a concert or entertainment	129	13%
I went shopping or ran errands	124	12%
I met friends or family who live or work downtown	117	12%
I went to a museum or other cultural event	107	11%
Other	30	3%
I did not go downtown in the last month.	29	3%
I attended a religious worship event or service	11	1%



5) What type of parking do you typically use downtown?

Respondents are nearly evenly split between on-street parking (47%) and parking facilities. Among those using facilities, 22% park in a garage and 20% use a surface lot. Additionally, 5% do not park downtown, while 4.8% use other parking options.

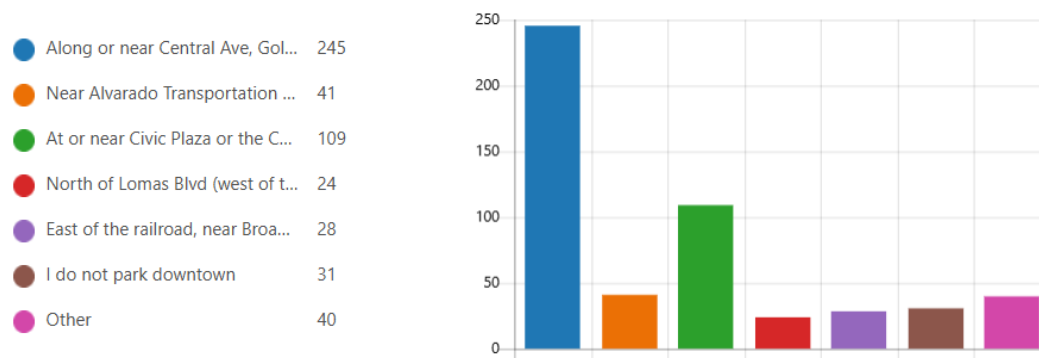
On-street parking	256	47%
Parking garage	122	22%
Surface parking lot	111	20%
I do not park downtown	29	5%
Other	26	4.8%



6) Where do you typically park downtown?

Most respondents park in the core of Downtown, primarily along or near Central Ave, Gold Ave, or Copper Ave (47%). An additional 21% park near Civic Plaza or the Convention Center, while 8% park near the Alvarado Transportation Center or Rail Yards. Another 8% cited other locations, 6% do not park downtown, 5% park east of the railroad near Broadway Blvd, and 5% park north of Lomas Blvd.

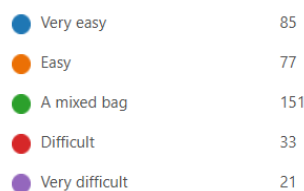
Along or near Central Ave, Gold Ave, or Copper Ave (west of the railroad)	245	47%
At or near Civic Plaza or the Convention Center (west of the railroad)	109	21%
Near Alvarado Transportation Center or the Rail Yards (west of the railroad)	41	8%
Other	40	8%
I do not park downtown	31	6%
East of the railroad, near Broadway Blvd	28	5%
North of Lomas Blvd (west of the railroad)	24	5%



7) How easy or difficult is it to find parking downtown?

Opinions on parking downtown are mixed, with 41% of respondents experiencing varying levels of ease and difficulty. Meanwhile, 44% find parking relatively easy—23% say it is very easy, and 21% say it is easy. In contrast, 15% find it difficult, with 9% describing it as difficult and 6% as very difficult.

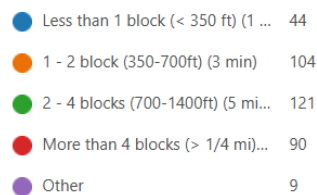
A mixed bag	151	41%
Very easy	85	23%
Easy	77	21%
Difficult	33	9%
Very difficult	21	6%



8) How far are you willing to walk from a parking spot to your destination?

Respondents are willing to walk a moderate distance from their parking spot to their destination. About 33% are comfortable walking 2-4 blocks (5 minutes), while 28% prefer a shorter distance of 1-2 blocks (3 minutes). Meanwhile, 25% are willing to walk more than 4 blocks (7+ minutes), and 12% prefer to park within a block (1 minute) of their destination.

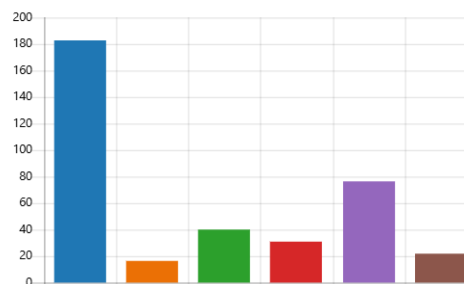
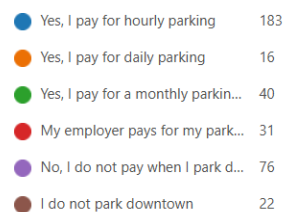
2 - 4 blocks (700-1400ft) (5 min)	121	33%
1 - 2 block (350-700ft) (3 min)	104	28%
More than 4 blocks (> 1/4 mi) (7+ min)	90	25%
Less than 1 block (< 350 ft) (1 min)	44	12%
Other	9	2%



9) Do you pay for parking downtown?

Half of respondents (50%) pay for hourly parking, while a smaller portion (21%) park for free. Others use monthly permits (11%), have employer-paid parking (8%), or pay for daily parking (4%), with a small percentage (6.0%) not parking downtown at all.

Yes, I pay for hourly parking.	183	50%
No, I do not pay when I park downtown.	76	21%
Yes I pay for a monthly parking permit	40	11%
My employer pays for my parking.	31	8%
I do not park downtown	22	6%
Yes, I pay for daily parking.	16	4%



10) How do you prioritize the TIME it takes to find parking versus how close parking is to your destination? Pick one.

Only 12% of respondents strongly prioritize parking close to their destination, while the rest consider finding a spot quickly a more important factor.

I somewhat prioritize finding a parking spot quickly but also consider how close it is to my destination.	103	28%
I equally value the time it takes to find parking and how close the parking spot is to my destination.	96	26%
I strongly prioritize finding a parking spot quickly , even if it means walking several blocks to my destination.	66	18%
I somewhat prioritize parking close to my destination but still consider the time it takes to find a spot.	55	15%
I strongly prioritize parking close to my destination , even if it means spending extra time circling the block.	44	12%

- I strongly prioritize finding a p... 66
- I somewhat prioritize finding a... 103
- I equally value the time it take... 96
- I somewhat prioritize parking ... 55
- I strongly prioritize parking cl... 44



11) How do you prioritize the COST of parking versus how close parking is to your destination? Pick one

While many respondents (44%) prioritize cost of parking, but also consider the distance from their destination, the majority either balance distance and cost or favor distance over cost, when parking. About 20% of respondents gave equal priority to both, while 14% and 11%, respectively, prioritize or somewhat prioritize closeness, even if it costs more.

I strongly prioritize saving money on parking and prefer free or inexpensive options, even if it means walking several blocks.	121	31%
I somewhat prioritize saving money on parking but also consider how close I park to my destination.	91	23%
I equally value the cost of parking and the proximity to my destination.	78	20%
I somewhat prioritize parking close to my destination but still consider the cost of parking	55	14%
I strongly prioritize parking close to my destination , even if it means spending extra money.	44	11%

- I strongly prioritize saving mo... 121
- I somewhat prioritize saving ... 91
- I equally value the cost of park... 78
- I somewhat prioritize parking ... 55
- I strongly prioritize parking cl... 44



12) How do you prioritize the TIME it takes to find parking versus the COST of parking? Pick one

Parking decisions are influenced by both time and cost, with 31% of respondents giving equal priority to both factors. Around 23% prioritize finding a spot quickly while considering cost, while 18% prefer saving money, even if it takes longer.

I equally prioritize the time it takes to park and the cost of parking.	112	31%
I somewhat prioritize finding a parking spot quickly but also consider the cost of parking.	82	23%
I strongly prioritize saving money on parking, preferring free or inexpensive options even if it takes longer to find a spot.	65	18%
I somewhat prioritize saving money on parking but still consider the time it takes to park.	55	15%
I strongly prioritize finding a parking spot quickly , even if it means paying more.	46	13%

- I strongly prioritize finding a p... 46
- I somewhat prioritize finding a... 82
- I equally prioritize the time it t... 112
- I somewhat prioritize saving ... 55
- I strongly prioritize saving mo... 65



13) Do you have any safety concerns related to parking downtown or walking between parking and your destination?

Safety concerns impact parking choices, with 40.4% of respondents feeling unsafe primarily in the evenings or after dark, while 38% feel unsafe at most times of the day. Meanwhile, 21.6% report always feeling safe when parking.

Yes, but only in the evenings or after dark.	148	40%
Yes, at most times of day.	139	38%
No, I always feel safe.	79	22%

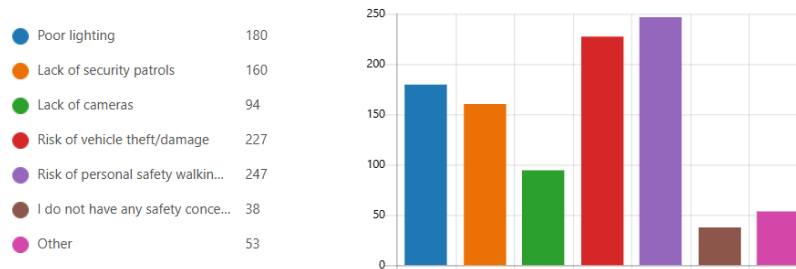
- Yes, at most times of day 139
- Yes, but only in the evenings o... 148
- No, I always feel safe 79



14) If you have safety concerns related to parking downtown, what are they? Select all that apply

Personal safety is the top concern for parking, with 26% of respondents worried about walking to and from their vehicle. Vehicle theft or damage is also a major concern (23%), followed by poor lighting (19%) and a lack of security patrols (17%).

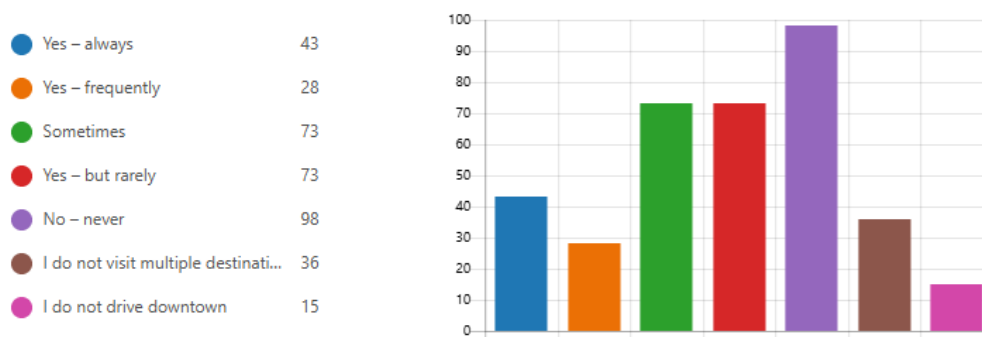
Risk of personal safety walking to/from vehicle.	247	26%
Risk of vehicle theft/damage	227	23%
Poor lighting	180	19%
Lack of security patrols	160	17%
Lack of cameras	64	7%
Other	53	6%
I do not have any safety concerns related to parking downtown	38	4%



15) If you visit multiple destinations when you drive downtown, do you drive every time you travel to your next destination?

27% of respondents never drive to their next destination after parking downtown, while 20% do so sometimes and another 20% do so rarely. Meanwhile, 12% always drive between destinations, and 8% do so frequently. Additionally, 10% of respondents visit only one destination when they drive downtown, and 4% do not drive downtown at all.

No, never	98	27%
Sometimes	73	20%
Yes- but rarely	73	20%
Yes- always	43	12%
I do not visit multiple destinations when I drive downtown	36	10%
Yes - frequently	28	8%
I do not drive downtown	15	4%



Written Responses Summary

The survey received a total of 277 comments made in the written responses. Each of those 277 comments have been read and organized into 11 categories:

Written Response Category	Number of Comments
Pricing and Payment	52
Alternative Transportation and Walkability	49
Redevelopment of Parking Spaces	36
Safety and Security	35
Availability of Parking	33
Parking Infrastructure and Conditions	23
Homelessness and Safety Perceptions	19
Impact on Downtown Businesses	16
Road Conditions	8
Repetition of Parking Studies	3
Wayfinding	3

Written Responses Key Takeaways

1) Pricing and Payment

- City employees are frustrated about paying for parking. Parking should be a provided benefit, as the cost adds financial strain and creates inequities among workers.
- Demand for more free or low-cost parking downtown. High parking fees deter visitors, workers, and businesses. More free parking, especially for short-term visits and weekends.
- Privatization of parking lots is negative for downtown. Companies profiting from parking, rather than the city reinvesting in improvements, hurts downtown.

2) Alternative Transportation and Walkability

- Excessive parking lots and car dependency limit downtown's vibrancy. Wider sidewalks, safer bike lanes, and more reliable public transit could make downtown a more attractive and accessible neighborhood.
- Strong demand for bike racks, protected bike lanes, and well-lit, secure places to store bikes.
- Respondents use ART, local buses, or the Rail Runner and feel that increased frequency, extended hours, and better connections are more essential than expanding car parking.

3) Redevelopment of Parking Spaces

- *Surface parking lots should be redeveloped into housing, businesses, and public spaces.*
- *Strong support for removing street parking, particularly along Central Avenue, to create wider sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and outdoor dining areas.*
- *Prioritizing people over cars will make Downtown more vibrant. Redeveloping the surface lots would create a more inviting urban environment.*

4) Safety and Security

- *Parking structures and surface lots are unsafe. Respondents report car break-ins, theft, aggressive harassment, and unsafe conditions especially in parking garages and lots.*
- *Issues like poor lighting, lack of security patrols, and vandalism perpetuate poor safety.*
- *Many call for stronger law enforcement measures, others suggest alternative solutions such as better lighting, monitored security cameras, social services, and improvements to cleanliness.*

5) Availability of Parking

- *Allow for longer than two hour parking at meters.*
- *There is plenty of parking downtown, garages and lots are often empty. Some suggest better communicating information of where the public can park, versus where permits are required.*
- *Many believe that downtown's lack of attractions, walkability, and safety concerns are bigger deterrents than parking availability.*

6) Parking Infrastructure and Conditions

- *Many respondents report that parking lots and garages are poorly lit, with some lights being out for years. This contributes to feelings of insecurity, particularly at night.*
- *Stairwells, elevators, and surrounding areas are frequently described as poorly maintained, unsanitary, and attracting criminal activity.*
- *Lots are described as in poor condition, lacking clear striping, landscaping, or modernized infrastructure. Respondents prefer multi-use developments that integrate parking with green space, businesses, or housing.*

7) Homelessness and Safety Perceptions

- *Unhoused individuals, open drug use, and aggressive behavior are major reasons respondents avoid downtown, not issues of parking availability.*
- *Relocating, hospitalizing, or deploying support services for the homeless should take precedence over parking-related changes.*
- *Business owners consider relocating their businesses to other areas as these issues persist*

8) Impact on Downtown Businesses

- *Workers face difficulties finding affordable, safe, and convenient parking, expressing concerns about frequent break-ins and ticketing while at work.*
- *Customers avoid downtown due to expensive, limited, or inconvenient parking, especially in the context of safety concerns with leaving a vehicle unattended.*

9) Road Conditions

- *Back-in angled parking and perpendicular spaces on 3rd street are safety hazards.*
- *Frequent and unclear closures, especially around Central, create frustration.*

10) Repetition of Parking Studies

- *Respondents are skeptical about the usefulness of another parking study, feeling that previous studies did not lead to meaningful change.*

11) Wayfinding

- *Better signage and technology are needed to help people find available parking, especially when so many lots and garages are underutilized.*

All Written Responses

Pricing and Payment
Also: too many broken meters create a feeling of unpredictability. I tend to find places without meters to reduce my risk of getting a parking ticket.
and I don't mind paying \$1/hr for the meters. I'd be willing to pay more than \$1/hr for on street parking.
As a disabled person I don't pay for parking.
City employee here paying a hefty sum for annual parking behind the KiMo in the VSA garage at 5th/Copper.
Downtown ABQ has tons of parking in the garages. The city should make this free for the first 2 hours.
I am a city employee, but I make less than other city employees at my level because I have to pay monthly for parking.
I am fortunate that my employer pays for my parking. But I do know how expensive it is. I also think the meter folks are too fast to jump on giving a parking ticket. Another thing is at the Family Advocacy Center, 625 Silver SW, again the meter folks seem to be there always. The FAC was made for "survivors" to come and get the resources they need. There should be some free parking street level for them. I feel they should not have to pay for parking,
I appreciate it when I can pay with my card instead of coins or cash.
I do not pay for parking because I have a handicap placard.
I do not want to pay to park downtown.
I don't think people should pay for parking.
I don't believe that people who work downtown should have to pay \$600 to have a safe place to park.
i feel parking structure are [...] -and expensive
I find the cost of parking to be reasonable.
I like the surface parking lot that is free while conducting business at County Building. I don't mind paying for meter if I know I'll be back within an hour or less.
I park at the pay lot on Gold between 2nd & 3rd, which costs about \$6/day. I received a ticket once because I forgot to complete payment via the app and learned that the company I needed to remit the parking penalty to is based in New Orleans. It would be great if CABQ owned these lots, so at least the money that we paid for parking could be going toward the benefit of our municipality. I may be naive in my understanding of this but I'd much rather be forking out my \$6 a day/+/- \$1500 a year to Albuquerque.
I pay \$47 a month to park in the City owned lot.
I pay a monthly fee to park adjacency to where I work
I prioritize on street parking. Private Paid parking lots have clunky systems. Apps, SLOW kiosks, cash boxes (carrying cash isn't as prevalent anymore).
I really dislike being nickel and dimed to pay for parking to attend meetings, eating out, or using services. I will go elsewhere where I do not have to pay for parking if I can.
I work downtown, and I pay for a monthly parking permit at Acropolis. The permit is almost \$80 a month
I'm not sure why paying for parking is in place considering that the goal is to get more traffic into the area. There are really not enough shopping/dining/ event options to make it a "go to destination " at this point.
If the city wants to get people to come downtown, then parking fees need to be low.
I'm glad to pay for parking because parking in a dense area is at a premium, as it should be.
It would be nice to have a few spots per block that are free, but with a short time limit. I pay the parking meter with coins, but I suspect the cost to the city to collect the coins exceeds the revenue.
It's been 2 years since I used the parking garage. It refused to take my debit card. I was lucky that my son hadn't gotten too far away, he came back and used his card. Otherwise, I would have had to break the arm, since you don't have real humans taking money anymore.
Kill the parking fees for on street parking
Like many city employees, my parking fee is deducted from my paycheck.
Make parking structures safe and affordable! Keep street parking free!!! Parking meters are unnecessary and people avoid them at all costs
Metered parking should be done away with completely.
Need more free parking. It would bring more people!!
Not enough reasonable priced safe locations
Paid parking lots are out-dated, require cash and not many people carry cash now, or an application needs to be downloading in order to pay for parking.
Parking downtown is hard because it's always laid parking on the street for the most part. I think if there was more free on street parking it would bring in the right crowd and money back into downtown
Parking garages are too costly!
Parking is extremely expensive and costly. Makes it difficult to fully be present for restaurant visit or destination knowing I can be easily ticketed and owing the city money or private parking infrastructure if my time runs up. Ticket fees are typically 5x more than the original fee.
Parking meters should be free on weekends. We paid ONCE to go to the downtown library. And it was filled with sick (coughing) street people anyway, so who needs that?

Paying to park can often be confusing. Meters, kiosks, sometimes there's both. There are times when I park not knowing exactly how much time I need in the downtown area. It would be nice to just pay from an app and add time as needed, instead of having to return to my vehicle and waste more time.
Quit price gouging tax paying citizens
Since I work downtown and have to drive occasionally to work, I would like no charge on parking. Free parking for city employees!!
Someone needs to look into the practice of renting out private lots to the public. Premium Parking is working with any empty lot they can find and turning them into paid public parking. Example: the lot behind Flyby Provisions. This is a privately owned lot that was now set up to be for public parking. The lot on 8th & Kent near the MCOG building (formerly a private lot for Molina- now suddenly a paid public lot). From what I understand if a lot is turned into public parking the owner then also needs to provide a variety of amenities: lighting, trees, security.... Lots that have been "grandfathered in" (think Central between 6th & 7th) do not apply I realize. However what is being done to block our already overly paved Downtown from turning into more and more parking lots? This makes development on these lots extremely difficult as the owner is now making money on a lot they do not have any motivation to develop or sell.
The cost of monthly parking downtown at City garages and lots are a disincentive for leasing office space. In other parts of the City, employees and/or employers do not have to pay for parking (in addition to their rent). Additionally, the City lots have a high incidence of crime and feel unsafe to monthly parkers. We regularly hear complaints about the City garages including being attacked, property damage to vehicles, finding individuals using drugs, having sex, and seeing folks defecating and urinating in the garages. These issues have been brought to the City's attention many times, but no real improvements are seen, again creating a disincentive for employers to locate their businesses in the heart of downtown.
The dangers and lack of parking with reasonable rates prevent me from ever wanting to go downtown. Same for my family members
There needs to be more free parking. People don't enjoy having to pay to park and many people do not feel safe parking in a parking garage. Also, stop making government employees pay to park if they work downtown. Downtown is not family friendly.
There should be free parking available to visitors to the Albuquerque Special Collections Library at Edith and Central.
There should not be fees to park downtown, there is no security or benefits from the funds that are used. Especially there should be NO PARKING TICKETS if a meter is expired. Focus on criminals not parking.
too many criminal hiding places in parking garages, feeling of fear when accosted by panhandlers and drunks.
We should follow Donald Shoup's recommendations of pricing parking correctly and establishing Parking Benefit Districts.
We should make parking decks free and eliminate the street parking.
When I do pay for parking I much prefer to put coins in a meter rather than pay at a lot. Not sure why but I like it better.
When parking for personal reasons, I will always scout for free parking if possible.
While parking is affordable downtown I have two suggestions. Cash lost should not be allowed, only card or electronic payment. this is to protect the user and owner from theft along with those who come into the area looking for a theft opportunity. And secondly, to encourage tourism downtown, I would suggest no-fee parking on Central from May 1 to Oct 30. You could limit the time allowed to two hours or so, but this can be a deterrent to tourism and would benefit businesses.

Alternative Transportation and Walkability
Investing in wider sidewalks, dedicated transit lanes, and bike-friendly infrastructure isn't just about improving safety and accessibility—it's about transforming downtown into a space where people want to live, work, and spend time. Cities across the country are seeing the economic and social benefits of prioritizing walkability and reducing car dependency, and Albuquerque can do the same.
I think there is more than plenty of parking available downtown. I think we should prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety corridors and easier and safer ways to get around town by walking.
I experience many cars parked in bike lanes.
More bike parking! And better sidewalks! Bike lanes or bike boulevards. Converting unused parking lots into green spaces. More trees to reduce heat island effect
I would bet \$100 that whether it is a downtown area or a mall or a suburb or a restaurant, you name it, the big majority of people in this country simply refuse to walk. They will sit in their car in a handicap spot with the car running so that a second person can jump out and be close to the door of XYZ to do whatever they need to do. They will ask their more fit companion who is the driver - drop me off at the door - and then the driver companion has to do the walking. This is not people with a handicap placard - this is "average folks". I have been fortunate enough in my life to live in several other countries for extended amounts of time and whether it is that people are simply so unfit or just feel so untitled or both combined or something else, they refuse to actually walk outside. It's like everyone is a Kardashian who expects door to door service. Uber has probably also contributed to this "it's below me to walk". This is aside from people who do health/recreational walking for exercise.
I want to express my interest in a walkable downtown area with less parking and traffic. Please invest in a pedestrian-friendly space that doesn't feel like a zombie apocalypse. Please work on creating affordable housing. I feel embarrassed to bring friends from out of town downtown because there isn't very much going on there and it feels unsafe as a solo female for me to walk to my car or bike (I often bike as well and I'm more worried about my fancy bike being stolen than my vehicle). It would be nice if it were designed better for folks to live there with grocery stores and other nice amenities that they have access to within safe, walking distance. No more parking!

I take the bus when I can. A big motivator is the cost and risk of parking. I've been broken into. Also, I'm often observed getting out of my vehicle by folks who are loitering. That makes me feel unsafe and also concerned about leaving my vehicle. The bus is free and I'm not worried about my vehicle.
There are easy and free ways to travel downtown, I often choose to take the bus for ease and to support our local transit options. I would really like to see sidewalk dining - all thriving cities I visit have amazing options for this, and our climate is very amenable
I ask that you continue to focus on transit options, dedicated transit and bike lanes, stronger pedestrian and bike facilities, and help shift the culture away from the car as the center of our universe. I believe PEOPLE should be the focus.
Downtown Albuquerque has incredible potential to become a vibrant, walkable space, but its current over-reliance on car parking limits this potential. I encourage prioritizing investments in wider sidewalks, dedicated transit lanes, and bike-friendly infrastructure to make downtown safer and more accessible for everyone. Excessive surface parking diminishes opportunities for housing, commerce, and community gathering spaces. Let's focus on solutions that reduce car dependency and create a more dynamic, people-centered downtown!
Downtown had been ruined by car traffic. It may require some creative thinking, but we need to find a way to take cars out of downtown, and replace them people on foot, out walking, having a meal, etc. I think when people just drive through, just stress out about parking, or blast through to show off their dumb custom exhaust system, it fosters a culture of not caring about or respecting public spaces.
Parking is very easy in nearly all of Albuquerque including downtown at basically all times of day to anyone willing/able to walk 2 blocks or so. The biggest danger is other drivers, many of whom are very impatient, quick to aggression and unwilling to park anywhere except directly outside the location they are heading towards. Albuquerque has low density compared to other cities, including in downtown. I walk 1 mile from my home to Downtown with my wife including late at night and have never felt unsafe due to other pedestrians, only due to aggressive or impaired drivers. I drive to downtown if I need my car or for work. The main way to increase safety in downtown is to continue to prioritize and incentivize popular and safe businesses filling every storefront. I love downtown Albuquerque and want to see it continue to grow with small businesses.
DOWNTOWN NEEDS MORE BIKE RACKS. I RIDE MY BIKE TO DOWNTOWN 80% OF THE TIME DRIVE 20% OF THE TIME. I USUALLY HAVE TO LOCK MY BIKE TO A PARKING METER OR STREET SIGN.
I live in Santa Fe and own a car, but I do not drive downtown or park downtown because the transportation options (Rail Runner, ART, etc.) make it easy and convenient for me to get in and around downtown without a car. I find it far more convenient too. I think downtown surface parking lots should be developed into better amenities (housing, retail, business) and fast and frequent public transportation options and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure should be prioritized over parking. The thing that keeps me the most from coming downtown is the weekday Rail Runner schedule, which prevents me from returning to Santa Fe later than 6:45 PM. If this were extended later I would be downtown and spending money about three or four times per month instead of just twice per month.
Although I like to be able to park close, the large number of lots taken up by parking is pretty detracting (ugly/encourages driving). I like the idea of taking the scooters around, but they are kind of expensive if going very far on the orange scooters. Couldn't get a pricing for the Lime ones by simple button pushing & wish that was more obvious.
Not enough good bicycle parking. Too much car parking. Some places like Little Bear Downtown have NO bike parking. Why do we prioritize cars when ART is available, bicycles are better, and the rail runner serves Downtown? Replace parking with bike parking, bus lanes, and parklets. Surface parking also should not be allowed or should be heavily taxed. Our downtown feels dead compared to small towns in the Midwest, East Coast or California and parking/cars is 90% of why. Please prioritize bikes, pedestrians, and transit in ALL future downtown and downtown area projects. In addition, sidewalks can be widened and made ADA-compliant. Gold Avenue, for example, is miserable if you have to use a mobility device. That parking is empty most of the time (don't let business owners tell you otherwise). Take it away, build better sidewalks, bus and bike lanes, and make downtown come alive again.
Not enough bike parking, too much car parking. build more bike parking
Streets downtown are for people. Get rid of the street parking, expand the sidewalks, and make downtown safer and more attractive. We only need 1 or 2 handicapped spaces per block, the rest should go. There's plenty of parking in the multiple parking decks downtown. It's not like most Americans don't need the exercise. People visit bustling urban areas because there's an abundance of attractions that they want to do or experience, not because parking is easy. Part of building downtown into an attractive destination is making it more family friendly with bigger sidewalks, more public spaces, and less traffic. If people want to go downtown, because there's lots of stuff to do and it offers experiences that they can't get anywhere else in Albuquerque, they will find a way to get there and parking will be the least of their concerns.
If it's light outside I usually try to ride my bike downtown. I wish there were more spots to safely store my bike so I didn't have to drive and deal with parking.
There is far too much parking Downtown. Would love to see the parking on Copper and Gold turned into a bus lane for ART and the local lines transiting Downtown. Would also love to see surface parking developed into housing and commerce.
There is a significant abundance of parking downtown, we need more apartments, businesses, and more public spaces.
Downtown is for people, not for cars. People buy goods and services not cars. Give people more reliable ways to get downtown (like ART and protected bicycle lanes) and you will see more people in downtown. Expanding parking, and making it cheaper will only serve to turn downtown into feeling like a soulless strip mall on Coors Blvd NW.
I would love to not have to drive & hassle with parking at all. I'd much rather take reliable public transportation that many other entertainment-goers are using too. I don't feel like ABQ is at that level of infrastructure nor usage (yet) but I do feel like there's an appetite for it, especially among young people. We need critical mass though for everyone to opt-in!

We should reduce the need for parking by making other modes of transit as convenient or more convenient than driving. This requires investing in improving transit (ART: more frequency, longer hours, signal priority, electrification) and pedestrian infrastructure (wider sidewalks, safer crossings, on-street dining).
We should aim to reduce the number of surface parking lots and on-street parking. The appeal of downtowns is that they are walkable with many local stores and destinations within close distance. Excessive parking reduces downtown walkability by taking up valuable space that could support businesses, public spaces, or housing, while creating unattractive "dead zones" that discourage foot traffic and lively street activity.
I mostly use after hours street parking that is free. Otherwise I bike. Walking with friends and larger events make safety concerns less prevalent.
Please add more bike parking in well lit areas!! Add bike parking directly in front of participating businesses. Creating a safe pedestrian space for walkers rollers and ada should be prioritized. Go bikes, go people!
I wish there was more bicycle parking in front of some of the businesses I want to go to downtown. I do not need any more parking structures.
bike rack program please - https://burque.bike/
...every building's main front should be accessible by walking. The easier it's to walk in general and between destinations, the less need is there to have parking or driving from one to the next.
Actually just take out all the railings and require the nightclubs to install temporary railings (or use the poles with retractable straps like they do in movie theaters). There is too much junk in the sidewalks downtown that make it inaccessible and uncomfortable, almost always from businesses that aren't even open.
More bicycle parking please!! I would bike more if there were places I could lock my bike to.
More bike parking!!! Safe bike parking!!
There is WAY TOO MUCH parking downtown. If there were more frequent buses and rail runners at evening and night there would be less people driving downtown. Also with less parking we could have more destinations, with more people on the street and it would make it safer for everyone.
Parking spot for a car was never a problem but I prefer to avoid going downtown by car because I have convenient options with no cost such as bicycling or riding the art bus. I avoid to go by bicycle if I'm going back after dark and I feel unsafe at coal or Martin Luther King or when I'm planning to come back after the art bus service is finished.
We should prioritize less parking and more walkability and good transit! I'd much rather take a bus or train downtown and then move around by scooter, bike, foot, or public transit than drive. The only thing that makes me feel unsafe downtown is the CARS and their drivers.
I prefer to bike downtown but sometimes there isn't a good bike rack near where I'm going and there are limited bike routes across the freeways and the rail line.
I do love taking the ART or 66 line downtown! It's the best way to get around and not have to think about parking! I do that when I'm going downtown for meetings on a day I'm not in the office or for evening bar/ restaurant/ concert trips.
A more pedestrian friendly downtown with more places to go would be really exciting for Albuquerque
Honestly, better, more reliable crossings of I-25 would make me ride my bike downtown a whole lot more. I find the parking situation to not be a problem but I would also prefer not to drive. Why not prioritize better routes in and out of downtown as well as convenient locations for stopping and enjoying what downtown has to offer - seating and shade would encourage more time spent visiting businesses rather than making just one stop and taking off.
We need better and safer access to ride bikes downtown, such as protected bike lanes and well-lit areas to lock bikes that are patrolled.
I would go downtown more often if it was more walkable/less traffic
I try not to drive down town, I bike or take the art bus. If I drive I try to park close but free and will spend time trying to find that parking and never have paid for parking. I would prefer to never drive, and if there are more pedestrians and cyclists that will intrinsically increase safety and visibility.
I may be in the minority here but downtown is meant for walking, biking, and transportation.
I'd rather walk but as a pedestrian feel scared a car will run me over.
Please install more bike lock locations to make it safe and convenient for cyclists! I pretty much only use the large locks in front of ex novo, even if I'm not going there because they are in an area that's well lit and with lots of eyes, and locks can be hard to find on central close to other venues.
time for ABQ to admit prior mistake/error and get rid of ART
If the ABQ ride bus was more frequent and reliable, I would prefer that to driving and parking downtown.
Tangentially: I enjoy using the ART to get into downtown but my friends are mostly scared to use it since so few riders are commuters who have a choice in their transportation. I think free fares discourage normal use unfortunately.

Redevelopment of Parking Spaces

There is so much parking downtown especially in the foot print efficient garages. The city should remove the excess street parking, expand the sidewalks to support the larger number of pedestrians, and redevelop all of the surface parking into housing and businesses that actually benefit the city.
There needs to be less parking downtown to make way for more housing and business. This would clearly increase the quality of life for all.
There is already plenty of parking downtown. If anything, it should be more expensive to encourage less car use and more use of alternative transportation. The city should reallocate space for parking cars to other uses. Surface parking lots are a

blight on the city and should be put to more productive uses, like housing and business. Street parking should be converted to protected bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes, and better sidewalks to encourage more biking, transit and walking. Prioritizing access for people instead of storage space for cars on our streets will make downtown more vibrant, more welcoming, and more prosperous.
There is too much surface parking.
Fewer surface parking lots and large parking structures would be better for downtown.
We shouldn't be thinking about the importance/impact of parking cars, we should be figuring out ways (eg selling city-owned parking lots to developers willing to build affordable housing) to house our citizens. Prioritizing the automobile leaves us in the same dilemma we are experiencing today.
33% of downtown albuquerque is parking. We should close central avenue downtown to cars, plant trees in the center, and make it a fully pedestrian area. Downtown is too dangerous due to speeding cars, drunk drivers, and people in cars that scream at you or say disgusting things to my girlfriend. I plan on leaving and moving away.
Downtown has too much street parking. I visit downtown because I want to see and do things, not because I want to experience huge chunks of metal with 4 wheels littered around the streets. Street parking makes downtown ugly and removes vital space that could be used for trees, walking space, outdoor cafes, socializing on the sidewalk, and so forth. Parking should be consolidated into the parking decks, full stop. If people want to complain about that, good riddance. There are plenty of people who would show up downtown if it was more inviting for families, had less traffic, less noise pollution, less air pollution, more trees, and more space to just have fun. Street parking kills that. I am not aware of a single case study where removing street parking didn't have an overall positive effect.
There is AMPLE parking downtown. I was downtown on Friday night to get dinner and nearly all the surface parking lots were empty. I wish there was more to do downtown, and that the city would focus on redeveloping some of these underutilized parking lots into housing and commercial uses. The city has been prioritizing cars over the human experience for too long, and the consequences of those choices are great (we have a shell of a downtown because of this). Let's remove street parking on our most valuable streets and convert them into HUMAN uses. Parking dominates our most precious space and is a disservice to our community. And many cities have shown that when you make these changes, the city reaps the benefits many times over.
Eliminate the two surface parking lots along Central. They are gathering venues for late night trouble, and they are ugly
Downtown Albuquerque is brimming with potential to become a dynamic, thriving destination, but its over-reliance on surface parking is holding it back. Every block dominated by parking lots represents a missed opportunity for housing, businesses, and community spaces that could energize the area and attract people. Let's reclaim downtown for people, not cars, and create a vibrant, people-centered community that fosters connection, drives economic growth, and makes Albuquerque a place to be proud of.
Despite the fact that I dislike driving around looking for the perfect parking place, I am NOT advocating creating any additional parking spaces!!! We should be eliminating parking, not adding it. And making alternative transportation safer and more attractive. Parking a bike downtown is much harder than parking a car
There is abundant parking downtown and several surface lots that are frequently empty or highly underutilized. I would like to see a denser design with lots converted to buildings or other uses. This would also help with safety (in my opinion.) I live downtown and I mainly feel unsafe walking due to the fact that there are so few other pedestrians or people out and about.
There is enough parking downtown. Some of the surface parking lots near Central and Gold should be redeveloped into housing or commercial. The land is too valuable to let sit empty.
There is absolutely no problem parking downtown. The priority should be to draw more people downtown so that we have the luxury of worrying about where they will park.
Parking really should be limited to specific garages that can utilize the land its on better than an empty lot. Ideally, parking should be as discouraged as possible to make room for things people actually need like housing, food, and other amenities. It boggles the mind that we have made so much space for cars to park nearly for free in an area of the city where space is at the most premium. With ART, the Rail Runner, and the new Rail Trail, there should be next-to-no reason why someone would have to drive into downtown unless they are a delivery van or similar work vehicle. We should remove on-street parking along central, expand the sidewalks, and make downtown a lovely place to live, shop, work, and stroll through, without the pollution or danger that comes with vehicle traffic.
Downtown needs less surface parking and ideally less on-street parking. Having convenient multi-modal transportation options is the only way to get a large number of people downtown without having parking and traffic issues. Parking lots reduce the walkability, and appeal, of downtown. Instead: Utilize and advertise existing parking garages. Incentivize the use of ART, cycling, walking, and e-scooters. Improve the ART (signal priority, electrification, longer hours, more frequency) so that it becomes convenient. Add a second, Norht-South, ART line. Repurpose some of the street space (on-street parking) for more pedestrian facilities, including wider sidewalks and outdoor dining. These steps will make other options, other than cars, as convenient or more convenient.
Surface parking lots need to go there are higher and better uses for that land. Parking minimums should be lifted.
There is abundant parking downtown and several surface lots that are frequently empty or highly underutilized. I would like to see a denser design with lots converted to buildings or other uses. This would also help with safety (in my opinion.) I live downtown and I mainly feel unsafe walking due to the fact that there are so few other pedestrians or people out and about.
Albuquerque has overly abundant parking space. I would love to see some of that land use transformed into pedestrian-friendly spaces that support social cohesion and enable people to easily and safely walk, bike, and take transit to their destinations. Less parking space means more room for people and for the elements of a thriving downtown: parks, local businesses, affordable housing, gathering spaces, and cultural venues.

We should aim to reduce the number of surface parking lots and on-street parking. The appeal of downtowns is that they are walkable with many local stores and destinations within close distance. Excessive parking reduces downtown walkability by taking up valuable space that could support businesses, public spaces, or housing, while creating unattractive "dead zones" that discourage foot traffic and lively street activity.
There's too much parking & it's too cheap! We need more development & fun things to do. Priorities should be developing empty parking lots & buildings. If there's fun stuff to do, people will come downtown. Also: too many broken meters create a feeling of unpredictability. I tend to find places without meters to reduce my risk of getting a parking ticket.
Surface lots create dead space in cities. We should zone them all for housing development. The city should divest from surface lots, if it owns any.
I would love unused parking areas to be given back to the community as gathering places as well. All these places really need is some shade and foliage, and the residents and business patrons would utilize it.
I believe we have enough parking downtown and would really like to see a reduction in surface parking lots that take up a lot of land space. This could be fixed by building more parking garages. I've also never experienced not finding parking downtown so street parking seems to suffice.
Parking should be the last priority in terms of land use, and we should instead promote housing. Removing parking minimums for new housing should be implemented as an incentive for the development of new housing.
Fewer parking lots more development please!
Take away all of the street parking on Central, turn them into parklets where feasible (especially in areas where the sidewalk is narrow and/or blocked by railings). Street parking is such a small percent of the overall downtown parking, but has an outsized negative effect making downtown unappealing. Nobody wants to visit a parking lot, people want to visit businesses and public spaces that feel welcoming. I know some business owners are crybabies and think the world will end if the city removes the 1 or 2 spaces in front of their business, but study after study has shown that removing street parking has positive effects. Some of the most lucrative shopping streets in the US and around the world have no street parking (or are completely car-free). There is just no need whatsoever for street parking in the downtown core, at least not on Central, and not on 1st-8th on the blocks immediately north and south of Central.
I wish the city could reclaim some of these privately owned empty parking lots and repurpose them for better uses than parking.
I would like to see surface parking lots eliminated. Street and parking garage should be the only options.
WE NEED LESS PARKING LOTS. They ruin the safety, aesthetic, density, walkability, economic viability, and overall desirability of downtown. We need to repurpose the parking lots we have into parks, apartment buildings, grocery stores, and mixed-use buildings in order to help redevelop the downtown area into a destination that people feel is safe, fun, beautiful, and walkable.
Downtown Albuquerque is overparked for a city of our size. We need to focus street space on things like parklets, protected bike lanes, pedestrian facilities, and greenery not street parking. There are plenty of garages and lots for parking and good transit service so that people don't have to drive.
It's past time to rethink an outdated overemphasis on downtown parking. We need more housing and mixed uses, and improved conditions for biking and walking.
We should make parking decks free and eliminate the street parking. This would increase safety, reduce air pollution and noise pollution, and make downtown a more comfortable and inviting place to be. I am hopeful that the addition of bike lanes on Central and the conversion of all intersections to 4-way stops will help this somewhat, but we really need to get rid of the excess parking.
Surface lots need to be redeveloped into something else, preferably high rise dense housing.
I want the parking spaces to be transformed into community spaces, like how when you walk around Europe you see people drinking coffee in cafe's on the street, and parking can be in underground patrolled structures (nobody loves the visual of parking garages) This set up would reinforce safety because more people will be on the streets, keeping eyes on our common spaces.

Safety and Security
Because I work downtown and my building is connected to a parking garage, I relatively often see someone standing on the edge contemplating suicide. I also have observed people using them as parks/tracks and running up/down them or the stairs for exercise. Skaters and high schoolers also make use of those locations often as there aren't any real public locations for them to go besides civic plaza (Tangent: which lets be honest isn't very accommodating as it seems its more important to prioritize keeping homeless out than keep burghers in, obviously there may be safety concerns but more green space wouldn't kill anyone.) The homeless seem to prefer the elevator and the trash left behind. As far as my parking experience goes, I don't mind walking a bit further, there are also now scooters so its become less of a trek. I don't think we need cops. (tho I don't think we need them) I think we need actual places to hangout downtown that aren't going to cost our already poor populations that last bit of change in their pockets. If any parking lots are built I think they need to have an accessory park/place making purpose.
Downtown definitely needs more law enforcement presence
Extensive, monitored, highly-visible security cameras with known fast-response-times could deter crime, if repeat offenders were incarcerated.
For me it is hard to separate the experience of parking from being clean and safe. They all go together because they share the same space. If things are clean and safe, walking further to find a parking space is not an issue and should be a benefit. Central and its walkability used to be an amenity and now it is a liability.
For us it's more about safety than time or cost. If there were businesses other than bars, we would go more often.

I am an elderly female and the idea of going downtown terrifies me. I live within walking distance of downtown and I will always drive somewhere else to avoid a trip downtown. And for what reason would I want to even go there? Only one grocery store and I bet it's not cheap. Few, if any, unique shopping experiences. And I have to cross east to west on the railroad and walking Lomas with the problem of homeless or crossing at Central - not a smart plan. I only hope before I die I'll be able to safely walk to downtown and the trip will actually be worth it.
I am more concerned with feeling safe. I would like downtown to be more inviting like it was pre-covid so I could invite family and friends to visit me without being embarrassed.
I am uncomfortable with the number of cameras being so high. Cameras do not keep people safe. They document incidents, and at most intimidate people. But cameras aren't safety.
I don't go downtown as often because I don't feel safe.
I don't drive downtown unless I cannot avoid it. The last time was by the Amtrak Station at high noon. Two guys walked up and asked if my car was really expensive. I drove off immediately.
I feel parking structure are unsafe.
I find parking to be easy to find, but some parking is safer feeling than others. For example, the parking garage at 2nd and Gold does not feel safe. I generally prefer parking out in the open in a lot or on-street parking.
I have had my purse stolen from my car. People are constantly blocking the stairs and inside the opening to the elevators using drugs and passing out. I do not feel safe
I miss going to concerts, plays and other entertainment downtown because of safety concerns.
I really do not believe there are safe areas, especially at night. I do not go there after dark.
If I leave my car on central too long, it has been vandalized, broken into or I find trash on it.
I'm always safe. Max security cel block on death row, I'm still the one doing the damage. So I never worry about personal security. But my property is a sitting duck in this town and y'all seem intent on doing nothing about it.
In the last year alone my vehicle has been vandalized 7 times, to include broken windows, stolen mirrors, kicked in trunk, and being broken into while parked near 7th and central and 7th and gold, I almost expect damage now because I park in downtown - the incredible amount of human feces entering the parking on 7th and gold is also frustrating.
Increased parking is needed throughout the downtown area, but until the criminal element is cleaned up and under control, close proximity to the destination or just not going downtown will be an issue.
It is dangerous. A homeless person tried to attach me with a rock at 7am on a week day.
It's all about safety
I've had my car keyed, all the lights are out, there's often trash/needles around. The lot itself is in poor shape with no visible lines on the spaces. A person was carjacked there about a year ago. We all walk out as a group at night because we've been harassed by people hanging around. There are often campers along the periphery. I worry about my car all the time. There's been a lot of vandalism and license plates stolen. I've never seen a security patrol. The best it got was after the car jacking when APD put up cameras for about a month.
Monitored security cameras and visible patrols are needed. Enforcement of laws on vagrancy would help.
More police is not the answer, they have never prevented crime in ABQ.
Parking and personal safety are the two main reasons why I don't like to go downtown.
Please look at safety. We need help with the help with the mentally disabled and people on drugs that are suffering in the downtown and east downtown. Parking is not an issue crime is.
Safety and cleanliness is a MUST!
Someone got carjacked in that parking lot, people's cars have been damaged and vandalized, peoples' license plates have been stolen, and nothing is done about it. We walk to our cars in a group at the end of the day for safety, even though the lot is right outside our building. It's shameful and our city can do better.
That being said, I pay this yearly, and I have had my car keyed multiple times, my license plate stolen, harassed by homeless people and nothing can be done because of the fine print on the parking agreement. Downtown is dangerous, as a woman, as a citizen, as a city employee, we deserve to park safely and not have to be nickle and dimed when we are just trying to do our job. People have been car jacked in our parking lot, I have complained and asked for a simple fence, but nothing changes. I have done police reports and 311 complaints after vandalism and theft, it falls on deaf ears.
<i>The corner of 6th and Central is particularly unsafe for visitors parking along the street or in the surface lot, especially during the summer months.</i>
The dangers and lack of parking with reasonable rates prevent me from ever wanting to go downtown. Same for my family members
There should be patrols especially on Central near the KiMo Theatre when there's concerts
Until downtown is cleaned up, everything that is done is an absolute waste of time and money. Fix crime and homelessness, and the people will return. Until then, don't expect much.
We have lived in Albuquerque since 1984. In the past few years I avoid Downtown and/or the war zone like the plague. Crime is all over the place. We used to go downtown for many events. No more! Dangerous and scary.
When I go downtown for meetings, safety and security of my vehicle is the number one priority for me. My car has been vandalized twice in the last 18 months and the risk of losing insurance and the hassle of having it repaired again takes precedent over all other concerns.

Availability of Parking
Longer parking times would be nice!!!!
2-Hour limits are frustrating

Allow for longer than 2 hour paid parking at meters on Central
Although there is plenty of parking downtown, I find it difficult to determine which lots are available to park in, and which ones require some form of permit. Additionally, it seems like there are many vacant surface lots with unclear rules of who is permitted to park there - such as the Wells Fargo parking lot. It is also difficult to find this information online, which is my primary form of research when looking at this. The city map is helpful, but I think some wayfinding signage could go a long way!
Difficult for folks who use a cane and have difficulty on uneven surfaces. Feel slow movers should not walk around town.
During the work week, I frequently drive and park downtown to pick up a food order. During this type of trip, there are many open spots, and my car is rarely parked more than 5 minutes.
Get more customers for [VSA garage at 5th/Copper] and you won't have to add so much annoying, swerving street parking on places like 3rd street. On any given day, VSA garage is 1/3 full, and that probably goes for MANY garages downtown. Let's figure this out and use the parking garages and spaces we already have to their fullest!!!
Honestly there is too much parking and too few places to go. Off street parking is never full and it's very cheap.
I almost always drive to get to downtown, but I also think that cars are generally bad for the world and safe streets, and so I am okay with having to pay for parking, even a lot, to compensate for that. This is probably unusual but in general I think pedestrians should have the priority for safety and ease of transit all over the city, but especially downtown, even at the expense of drivers, because it incentivizes walking and biking. I believe that the people who say that they don't go downtown because parking is difficult or expensive are lying to you and maybe themselves. It is so easy to find parking. Adding parking or changing the cost or adding police officers will not convince people from the Heights or Rio Rancho or Santa Fe that downtown is easy to get to, get around, and safe. It is not based on facts and so changing the facts will not change the mindset. Do not be fooled by the focus groups.
I almost never have trouble finding a street parking spot
I don't drive downtown a lot, because I live downtown too and I can easily walk, but when I do, I almost never have a hard time parking downtown. Only if there's a huge event or something. There is SO MUCH free or cheap parking available. Folks who complain about parking downtown seem to have never been to a big city, where paying MUCH more, or parking several blocks away from your destination is totally normal.
I'd love it if all of the surface lots went away and made way for housing and other important uses that contribute to the vitality of downtown. We shouldn't be prioritizing parking over adding housing, attracting businesses and incentivizing folks to live, work, visit, and enjoy downtown.
I live downtown, and even when I didn't never felt there wasn't enough parking, it's very easy to park here compared to any other City I have lived in.
I think there are too many parking lots. I think permits for new construction downtown should require parking levels as part of the construction.
I think there is too much parking downtown.
I use downtown sports and wellness. They have us park in the lot across 2nd from the Galleria. It would be nice to have an entrance to the basement level on the east side of 2nd and not have to cross. Most people do that mid block. I know it connects because there's a loading driveway that extends under 2nd but isn't accessible to the public
It is a lot easier with all the vacant buildings and lack of employees working Downtown
It really depends on where you are headed and time of day.
Less privatized parking lots. Require new apartment complexes to accommodate parking needs by building parking garages for their tenants
More parking is always better, especially for charging electric cars. I used to take advantage of the free electric car parking at 3rd and Roma, but since it started charging a price, especially at a rate (\$ per wattage) that didn't make sense for the speed of the charge and also the amount of time allowed to park. Less expense to just charge at home.
Parking downtown is never arduous. Spots are plentiful. Downtown needs more transit options and destinations, not more parking.
Parking garages make it easy when needed, with streets if I'm feeling cheap.
Parking is far too easy downtown and that's the result of a lack of attractive businesses, particularly restaurants and bars. Far too many empty buildings and far to few services. Glad I don't have to go to a convention downtown - I'd be disappointed to visit from somewhere else and see how lacking our downtown is.
Please give Bernalillo County workers their own parking lot.
Please paint the perpendicular lines between meters again, people will take up more than one spot for no reason, often.
The only time I consider moving my car and parking twice when I want to visit two places downtown, is when it is too hot to walk from location to location. If there was better temperature control like shade, I would be able to walk more throughout the whole year.
The on-street parking spaces on 4th that were reserved for DMD are almost never used. Please reinstate those as public parking.
The on-street parking spaces on 4th that were reserved for DMD are almost never used. Please reinstate those as public parking.
The street in close proximity to where I work and frequent are always taken up all day long from handicap placards.. We should have a time limit of how long someone can park in a spot with a handicap placard. They park on the street for the entire business day; they should be limited to a few hours or so.
There is plenty of parking downtown, but much of it is unfortunately owned by private companies. This leads to many lots taking up space but often sitting empty.

There is plenty of parking space in the multiple parking decks downtown. I don't think any destination in the core is more than 4 blocks from a parking deck. More walking is better for everyone and every business. If businesses think that nobody will shop at their business unless they can park 10 feet away, they're in denial that their business sucks.
There's wayyyyyy too many parking options and spaces.
We don't need more parking lots. We don't need to bulldoze buildings just to build a parking lot. Open up the city or county garages for night or evening parking with a security guard
With limited parking spaces, and significant need, I recommend not sacrificing parking for more buildings. If a new building goes in, it should provide on-site, all of the parking it needs in addition to the spaces being removed for the building.

Parking Infrastructure and Condition
[Acropolis is] convenient, however, the stairwell can be poorly lit and ventilated. It often smells strongly of incense or worse. The elevators are well lit, but sometimes unhoused individuals ride the elevators causing them not to work, leaving drug residue and food trash. Sometimes they'll linger and yell around the exit and entrances. Sometimes there's feces or vomit on the sidewalks around the parking garage. I know maintenance does a wonderful job of upkeep, and security could be vastly improved.
Additionally, downtown is too dark. There needs to be more lighting on streets that run north to south.
Also, the big parking lots are ugly and feel unsafe.
Alternatively, I'd like to see more structured parking integrated with beautiful new mixed-use building projects.
Angled (vs parallel) street parking on 3rd south of Central forces unsafe weaving between lanes while driving. It also encourages blockage of the sidewalk while parking (e.g. by back-in parking by pickup trucks, which then hang over the walk and/or extend into the roadway) --a nuisance for walkers, near impossibility for such as wheelchairs.
Fix the parking meters.
I wish the surface parking lots were in better shape (ie paved, well marked, and secure) and more affordable per month.
Ideally there should be no visible parking downtown. Parking should be behind or below buildings and every building's main front should be accessible by walking.
If I'm parking all day, most business days, and paying for it anyway, I like covered parking.
In my experience in most large cities, parking is in secure garages
It seems there are underutilized parking garages that could be used as a centralized free parking structure instead of wasting space on multiple surface parking lots, which could transition that space into housing or business developments
Keep [VSA garage at 5th/Copper] clean and have one security guard there at ALL times!!!
Most of the safety concerns occur in the surface parking lots, please work to get rid of them.
Or, if the city invested money into making a well landscaped, well lighted, and secure parking facility, I think more people would visit and walk around downtown. Most of the surface lots that are available are in poor condition with bad lighting and little landscaping. The parking garages aren't attractive to use either, especially ones farther from Central.
Parking lots should be multi-use! Like in other cities. Put the parking above or below public amenities. We need more trees and green space and support for homeless folks
Since I pay for parking, I would expect a safe and well lit parking lot, but that is not the case. We have been trying to get the parking lot lights on at our lot for, I don't know, years?
The equipment that dispenses the tickets in the parking garage below City Hall and across from the Main Library are far from reliable. There no longer is staff there to resolve issues. Yes, we all know that one can call, but calling does not resolve the equipment failures. Additionally, the exit door/gate to 5th Street has been permanently closed, creating a longer walk and from time to time, an unsafe exit.
The garages are ok, but I prefer being out in the open on the street or in a lot.
The lot I [, a city employee,] use is managed by City of Albuquerque DMD. The lights within the lot have been out for two years. This demonstrates that the City does not prioritize the safety of its downtown workforce.
The main issue parking downtown occurs in the nuisance properties such as vacant or poorly managed lots, City owned lots, and City owned parking structures. Drug use, and other misc. illegal behaviors occur in these spaces regularly across all seasons and times of the day.
The parking garages can be scary, especially at night. I would never park in one if I were alone. I typically go to either the Albuquerque Government Center, Bernalillo County, or entertainment/restaurants. For work related, I park in the underground garage or the county parking lot. Otherwise, I park on the street.
The striping on Coal over the rail crossing makes a gap between the bike lane and roadway. At least some of this space should be used on the north side of the street to separate the sidewalk from the traffic lane. This would make the sidewalk safer. As it is I walk the bike lane in preference to the sidewalk.
The valet uses the closest spots for Hotel Andaluz which then requires me to walk down the middle of the parking garage for multiple levels because the stairwells and elevators are not safe, and elevators always broken. It is awful.

Homelessness and Related Public Safety Perceptions
Downtown Albuquerque is not as safe as it used to be. I used to frequent shows downtown and now, because of the homeless problem and the increased lack of safety, I avoid going downtown, except for work, like the plague. I don't know that any parking fixes will make downtown more attractive until the safety concerns are addressed.
Drunk, sleeping people, and those sitting and laying on sidewalk, around the train and bus terminal and on downtown sidewalks need to be relocated or taken to a hospital.
Harassment by homeless

Homelessness is the largest factor that makes downtown unattractive. I don't want to walk further but will if it means leaving my car in a safe place.
I don't like being approached by the homeless every week as I go from my car to work. It's DANGEROUS!!!! I am considering moving my store out of downtown because my customers are asking me now if they can buy online instead of coming to my shop downtown. I am losing sales every week. I have a couple of options in the north valley that I may lease and move. Just not worth it being in downtown anymore.
I feel unsafe when the unhoused, homeless, drug-addicted, and mentally ill, have been blocked in the stair to the other parking floors.
I frequently go downtown for various reasons. I am in the evening stunned by the homeless and the lack of police presence. Also the repeated window breakage, theft and other crimes in the areas. This needs to be addressed it hurts landlords and tenants and prevents people from going downtown. NOT having a good reason to go downtown is a problem too. Banks closing, No real entertainment or sporting activities.
I used to love going downtown, but lately it I do fear for my personal safety when I have to walk anywhere downtown, especially if I am by myself. There are a lot of homeless and it makes for a very uncomfortable experience.
I work downtown and have safety concerns with parking. I pay a monthly parking fee to park next to the building I work at to avoid as many homeless people as I can. There have been a few employees that have been physically attacked by a homeless person while walking to work in the morning.
I've had a horrible experience the past year with the homeless sleeping in staircases, elevators and defecating and urinating everywhere. No security and was recently attacked. I now pay for parking under the Clyde hotel because I am afraid to go back.
Looking around for vagrants before parking is priority.
Not a safe place - trying to move - often find homeless sleeping in the elevators in the Acropolis Parking Garage - my car has been vandalized- trash often dumped -
Parking downtown at any hour has been a challenge due to issues with safety once parked and when trying to enter into the historic First National Bank Building. More times than not, once out of the vehicle we run into homeless urinating and defecating in the front entryway. The weekends are particularly unsettling. We are often times approached for money as well.
People are not avoiding downtown because of parking. Instead, they are avoiding it because of individuals experiencing homelessness as well as open drug use and behavioral health issues. You should refocus your efforts.
Safety is my highest concern and priority. If I see homeless people nearby who are asking for money or seem mentally unstable, etc. I will let my business clients know I am going to be late and the reason for my tardiness.
Since moving here in 2009 from a major market, I always felt that Downtown was a disappointment. It's trying, but still not happening, and the unfixable homeless situation doesn't make it more enticing. It's sad on so many levels.
the homeless and their significant levels of mental health issues make visiting downtown difficult and are a shameful deterrence to growth in that region
To think that improved parking without first addressing the safety, homeless, dirtiness and overall nastiness of downtown is putting the cart before the horse.
You need to monitor the 2nd & silver grocery store area. Lots of homeless hang out all around that store. It's difficult to go in there with some many outside and surrounding the block in all directions.

Impact on Downtown Businesses
As a manager of a business downtown I know that patrons worry about where they park and it directly effects how late they stay or if they come downtown at all. People are afraid to take the A.R.T. bus unless they are in a group. Several customers have had their cars damaged or stolen downtown and they tend to take a break before returning, if they return at all.
From a personal standpoint parking downtown can be difficult, from the perspective of a manager of a business- there is not enough cheap/free, safe and efficient parking for customers to come to my business instead of driving to a competitor in a different part of town. When there are events at the convention center causing nowhere to park our client usage dives about 40% per day.
I am a business owner and building owner of Flamenco Works in downtown. We moved our business here 2 years ago from our past location, which was just a few blocks down in Barelás (which had a small parking lot). After moving, we have been forced to rebuild our performance patronage. Given the proximity of our move, this is greatly concerning and sheds light on people's inhibitions about Downtown. The biggest feedback we have gotten is that people's experience with parking and walking along central is just not worth it. We are greatly invested in figuring out how to make parking and walking in downtown more affordable, accessible, and safe.
I own Cafe Lush. We struggle with not having enough parking on the streets especially during the Growers Market on Sat. It's a nightmare. My customers have been ticketed as the city sees this area as a honey hole. I've looked into the cost at the lots around us, one space is \$50 amonth. We would love some help!
I would love to see FREE 1 hour parking instead of meters. As a business owner, that would help with customer traffic. Also, it's ALWAYS a safety concern to walk to my vehicle, but especially true after dark.
I would spend more time downtown if I didn't have to pay for parking. And I would pick up food and support downtown restaurants more.
If businesses think that nobody will shop at their business unless they can park 10 feet away, they're in denial that their business sucks.
If there were businesses other than bars, we would go more often.

If we can find a good solution to getting a diverse selection of businesses to thrive downtown, I think worries of safety would decrease. The more people you have walking to/from parking would elevate the number of eyes if something unfortunate was to happen.
Parking as a business owner and customer downtown is a complicated issue that possibly the city could assist with. I will be moving my operations from 2nd and lead to the 400 block of central and this is an issue i am very concerned about. I need parking for a range of people 7-20 daily and the costs, proximity and safety concerns downtown gravely effect the possible success of getting folxs in the city core.
The continuing bleak state of the downtown core is so depressing that I only go to the gym. I only live about 4 blocks away, and even though I love eating out, I mostly cook my own food because it is more healthful and costs less.
The expense of parking impacts retention of employees, the street closures impact our business every time they change.
THE PARKING METERS ARE HARD TO USE, HARD TO SEE AND MAKE PEOPLE NOT WANT TO COME DOWNTOWN. I WORK AT THE WHEELS MUSEUM AND RUN IT AND HAVE FOR DECADES-FREE PARKING. FREE PARKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR BUSINESS. THE METERS ARE TERRIBLE. SHOPPING IN SHOPPING CENTERS-FREE. WHY SHOULD DOWNTOWN WHICH IS STRUGGLING HAVE METERS??????
When parking for work it's often important to find a spot near work because of unloading and loading supplies from my vehicle.
Would use more downtown businesses if it were easier to park.
You should make it easier for people working downtown to have a yearly pass to park. It makes people who work anywhere near hourly parking very hard to not get tickets all the time. And it's a guarantee that no matter where you park at some point your car will be broken into! As a business owner I constantly worry about where my employees are going to park and their safety walking to work

Road Orientations
<i>It's a little frustrating not knowing which roads will be closed (or partially closed) each day - especially 3rd street and 2nd between Central and Lomas.</i>
<i>Narrow streets with one-lane traffic and trucks unloading in the middle of the street,</i>
The parking lines on 3rd are ridiculous. There is no way to go the speed limit and stay within the lines as they are painted. It does not feel safe as a pedestrian either when cars are jumping back and forth from lane to lane
The closing off of Central and some cross streets on the evening weekends does push parking to a farther perimeter outside of Central. These outlying areas often feel more dangerous and dark. It would be nice to see business thrive better on Gold.
Downtown has horrible traffic pattern, with the bus route taking lanes out of Central Ave.
The back in angled parking is a mess
The parking spaces along 3rd St that are perpendicular to traffic, occupying a whole lane and causing traffic to swerve left and right are a poorly designed safety hazard.
Parked cars on both sides of street above 8th street on Lead or on streets that are not wide enough, should be prohibited. New apartments need to include onsite parking. Older Apartments should require tenants to park on side streets not on the busy thruways.

Parking Studies
<i>This survey is nonsensical if you live in the downtown area. Map provided is unreadable since it is so small. Sometimes I walk to locations, sometimes bike, sometimes drive. Questions and answers are poorly constructed. Very disappointing work by whoever developed it.</i>
<i>This study is a waste of time and money.</i>
<i>Downtown parking studies have repeatedly been conducted by the City of Albuquerque over the years. Doing one now seems like a waste of taxpayer dollars because there is a lower level of activity downtown compared to the last time you did a parking study (prior to COVID).</i>

Wayfinding
There is lots of parking opportunities away from the Central core that people just don't know about. If you drive north of Copper, there are completely empty lots even on the busiest weekend nights, which are only a 5 or so minute walk to Central. If there was a way to educate people on where lots are at, or some sort of app to view how full they are, it might show people there are options.
We should incentivize the use of existing parking garages through clear signage and branding as well as technology (e.g. indicating how many spots available).
signage to find parking could be better.