

There's been plenty that's changed about La Crosse's downtown business parking assessment over the years. Originally, the assessment was put into place to take the place of revenue that was lost from parking meters removed to help downtown complete with the mall. Now, the money goes to offset parking utility costs in ramps. It also raises a bit more cash as property grows in value, says Tony Hutchens, in the city's public works department. In 2001, the parking assessment raised about 75 thousand dollars. About a hundred thousand this year. But, as business owners in downtown La Crosse have recently learned, the parking assessment this year will stay at about two bucks per thousand, the same it's been since the mid eighties when the assessment was put into place.