



Draft Long-term Recommendations for Safe Start Permitting

Updates to Outdoor Dining, Vending Merchandise Display,
and Street & Sidewalk Activities Programs

Photo source: Eater Seattle



Our vision, mission, and core values

Vision: Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation

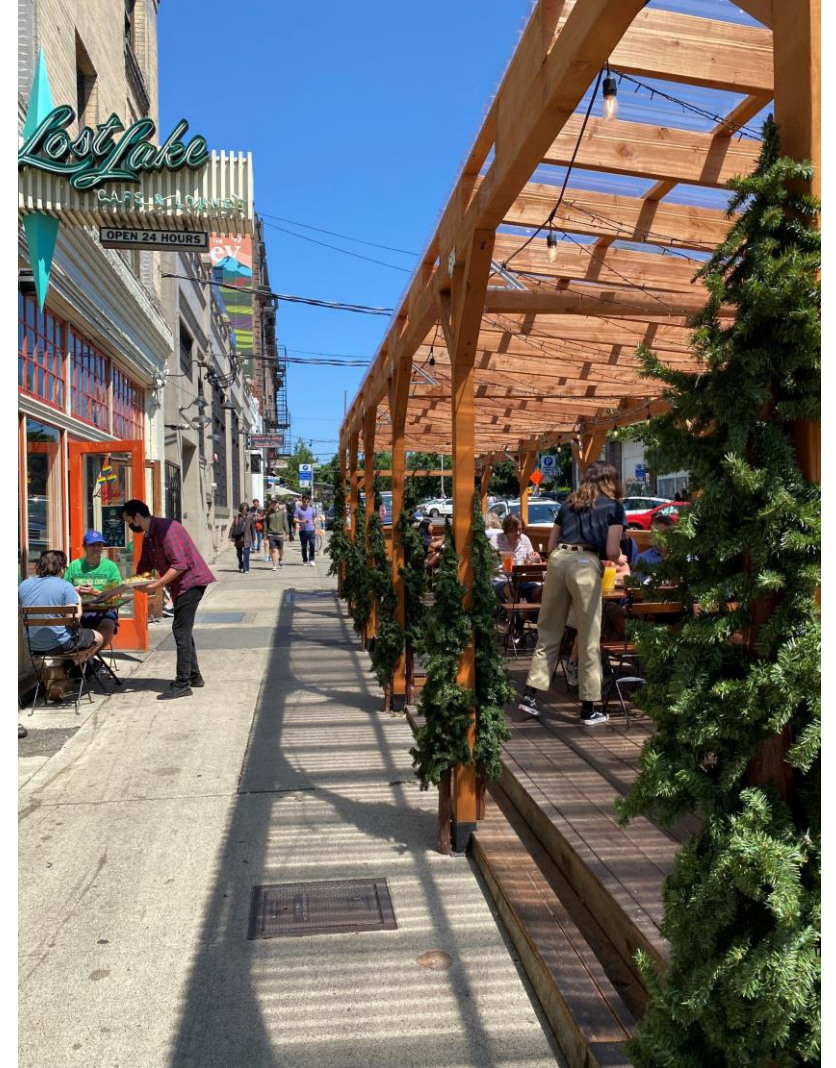
Mission: to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities

Committed to **6 core values:**

- Equity
- Safety
- Mobility
- Sustainability
- Livability
- Excellence

Presentation overview

- Timeline
- Mission & Themes
- Recommendations



Timeline

Draft Recommendations (March - May)

- Approval from Mayor's Office
- Send recommendations to Council
- Present recommendations publicly
- Begin Outreach Phase 3
- Continue SEPA and RET

Implementation (January 31, 2023)

- Safe Start Permits Expire
- Transitioned to new permits
- Implement any new programmatic elements

Permit Extension (February)

- Finalize Draft recommendations
- Prepare public facing documents
- Begin SEPA and RET

Final Recommendations (June 30)

- Finalize RET and SEPA
- Include changes identified in outreach
- Finalize implementation plans
- Finalize SMC and DR changes
- Submit to Mayor and Council

Safe Start 2.0 themes

- **Equity**
 - Lower fees and lower barriers (RET, TEF Lab)
 - Implement programs to support BIPOC-owned small businesses (TEF Lab)
 - Other RET-identified items
 - Definition of *use*
 - Insurance and indemnity requirements
- **Flexibility**
 - Move rules from SMC to Director's Rules
 - Implement Director's Rules that allow consistent decision making
 - Evaluate and adjust
- **Collaborative Approach**
 - Continue collaborative coaching for applicants
 - Increase and improve educational tools
 - Implement programs to build community capacity in permitting process

Proposed changes: permit types

- Move to guidelines-only for frontage merchandise displays
- Add seasonal option for cafes and merchandise display (when a permit is required)
- Add seasonal and yearly street closure permits
- Add low-cost temporary permit for vending
- Allow Safe Start permit holders to transition to seasonal or long-term permits, with grace period
- Require public notice in most cases



Proposed changes: outdoor dining

- Allow tents and structures
- Allow sidewalk platforms in more cases
- Don't require curbside cafes to have platforms
- Refine design standards, including requirements for transparency
- Set maximum length (40' or length of business frontage, whichever is greater)
- Produce ADA-compliance educational materials
- Public space outside of business hours (can't lock up the space)



Proposed changes: vending

- Eliminate 50' buffer from food & flower businesses
- Remove limitation of max 2 vendors per block face
- Eliminate setbacks from high schools & parks (we can connect with them during permit review)
- Allow vending in single-family residential zones (detailed implementation to be addressed by Director's Rule)
- Remove codified barriers to other types of vending (merchandise, arts & crafts) and develop guidelines to be adopted by Director's Rule to try out new options incrementally



Proposed changes: street closures

- Allow ongoing street closures to support business, with both full-year and seasonal options
- Single-business closures will only be allowed if public seating or community programming are provided
- Full-year or seasonal permits will be issued for public events
- Private street and sidewalk closures will be allowed for shorter duration events only



Proposed changes: fees

- Will be reintroduced beginning in 2023
- Focus on cost recovery with issuance and renewal fees
- Waive occupation fees for most uses – including parking replacement fees
- Prices may go up for smaller cafes that had very low occupation fees
- Will keep occupation fees for vendors
- Nominal fees for public street & sidewalk activities/closures
- Exploring strategies to lower barriers for participation



Temporary 'Food Pickup Zone' easels

- We are actively trying to pickup remaining food pickup zone easels and convert to long-term load zones as-needed
- Contact: loadzones@seattle.gov



Outstanding questions

- We're working with SDCI staff to determine temporary building standards for structures in the ROW, including calculations for wind and snow load.
- We're coordinating with SFD and SDCI on long term recommendations for propane and/or electrical heating and outdoor lighting.
- Transition period to long-term permits.



Questions?

Joel Miller: joel.miller@seattle.gov

Casey Rogers: casey.rogers@seattle.gov

www.seattle.gov/transportation

