SDOT

SDOT Director's Rule 6-2012

Applicant: **CITY OF SEATTLE** Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)	**Page** 1 of 9	**Supersedes:** N/A
	Publication: 6/4/2012 and 6/11/12	**Effective:** 7/6/2012
Subject: Design guidelines for vending carts and food vehicles permitted by the Seattle Department of Transportation Street Use Division	**Code and Section Reference:** Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Sections 15.02.046, Chapter 15.17	
	Type of Rule: Legislative	
	Ordinance Authority: Chapter 3.02 and Ordinance 123659	
Index: Street-Food Vending Carts and Food Vehicles; Street and Sidewalk Use; Design Guidelines	Approved Peter Hahn, Director Seattle Department of Transportation	Date 7-5-12

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1.0 References

1.1 Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 11.14
1.2 SMC Title 15, Street and Sidewalk Use
1.3 SMC Chapter 15.17, Vending
1.4 SMC Chapter 23.55, Sign Code
1.5 SMC Title 25, Environmental and Historic Preservation
1.6 SMC Chapter 23.66, Special Review Districts
1.7 SMC Chapter 25.08, Noise Control

2.0 Rule and Background

2.1 Seattle's street right-of-ways are an important and complex public resource. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is authorized to manage Seattle's transportation system and strives to operate and maintain this system to support the public health and safety for all members of the traveling public of all ages and abilities. SDOT is also responsible for overseeing permit processes for public rights-of-way, including the Street Use Street-Food Vending permit application process for vending carts and food vehicles. SDOT supports the Street-Food Vending program in order to activate the street-level pedestrian environment.

2.2 Ordinance 123659 authorized the SDOT Director to promulgate design guidelines for vending carts by rule. Existing vending carts and food vehicles permitted in the public place shall comply with this rule within 30 days after adoption.

2.4 The purpose of this rule is to establish standardized design guidelines and clarify existing placement standards for vending carts and food vehicles that are permitted by SDOT's Street Use Division. These design guidelines shall apply city-wide.

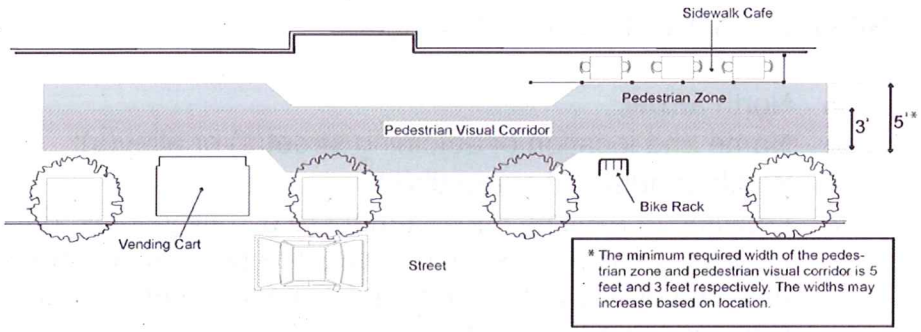
3.0 Definitions

3.1 "Food vehicle" means a licensed and operable motor vehicle used to serve, vend, or provide food or nonalcoholic beverages for human consumption from a fixed location or along a route in a public place as authorized by the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health and Chapter 15.17. (SMC 11.14.227)

3.2 "Food-vehicle zone" means a portion of a public place designated by a sign or other traffic control device that is reserved for the exclusive use of food vehicles that are permitted to vend in the curb-space portion of the public place. (SMC 11.14.228)

3.3 "Pedestrian Zone" means the area or space of the public place or roadway that is reserved for the exclusive use of pedestrians (Exhibit A for 15.02.046: Pedestrian Zone/Pedestrian Visual Corridor). (SMC 15.02.046)

Exhibit A for 15.02.046
Pedestrian Zone / Pedestrian Visual Corridor



3.4 "Pedestrian Visual Corridor" means a continuous and straight corridor within the designated pedestrian zone that provides pedestrians with a clear visual indication of the location of the path of travel along a block face (Exhibit A for 15.02.046: Pedestrian Zone/Pedestrian Visual Corridor). Street furniture, plantings, and other obstructions shall not protrude into this corridor. (SMC 15.02.046)

3.5 "Permittee" means a person or entity that has received a permit to use the public place. (SMC 15.02.046)

3.6 "Public Place" means public right-of-way and the space above or beneath its surface, whether or not opened or improved, including streets, avenues, ways, boulevards, drives, places, alleys, sidewalks, planting

strips, squares, triangles, and plazas that are not privately owned. (SMC 15.02.046)

3.7 "Vend or vending" means to sell, offer for sale, solicit orders, display, rent, lease, or otherwise peddle any good, ticket, thing, or service of any kind; to the public from a public place; as authorized or prohibited in Chapters 15.14 or 15.17. (SMC 15.02.046)

3.8 "Vending cart" means a movable cart that is used to serve, vend, or provide food, nonalcoholic beverages, or flowers.

4.0 Street Use Vending Permit Application and Review

4.1 SDOT Street Use will review designs for vending carts and food vehicles as part of the Street Use permit review process. SDOT Street Use will only consider complete permit applications for a vending cart or food vehicle permit.

4.2 Complete applications shall include a site plan and design plan of the proposed vending cart or food vehicle, in addition to the other application requirements as described in SDOT Director's Rule 3-2011, or successor provision.

- **Site plan** shall include the following:
  - North arrow;
  - Name and location of adjoining street(s) or alley(s);
  - Width of adjacent sidewalk(s);
  - Location of existing improvement (e.g., utility poles, parking pay stations, bus shelters, sign posts, tree pits) and delineating the distance of each improvement from nearest edge of the proposed vending area;
  - Location of property lines and dimensions of the public place area proposed for vending use, including vending unit, customer queuing area, and accessories;
  - If fencing or other barrier is proposed by the applicant or required by the Director for customer queuing, the fencing detail including location and dimensions;
  - Sidewalk width remaining for pedestrian zone and pedestrian visual corridor;
  - Location and dimensions of any proposed installations in the sidewalk area associated with the vending activity;
    - **Note**: Installations such as tables and chairs shall require a separate Street Use review and permit(s);
  - Location of abutting building exits and entrances; and

- Location and description of adjacent parks, adjacent streets that are closed to traffic, or adjacent public plazas available for pedestrian travel.

☐ **Design Plan** shall include the following:

- Photo or drawing of the proposed vending cart or food vehicle;
- Dimensions of the vending cart or food vehicle, including any proposed awnings and their height above the sidewalk grade;
- Location and description of proposed signage;
- Description of ancillary equipment, tables, coolers, or displays;
- If fencing or other barrier is proposed by the applicant or required by the Director for customer queuing, fencing detail including materials and dimensions.

5.0 **Design Guidelines.** In addition to complying with the regulations in Chapter 15.17 and Director's Rule 3-2011, or successor provision, the vendor permittee shall also comply with the following design guidelines:

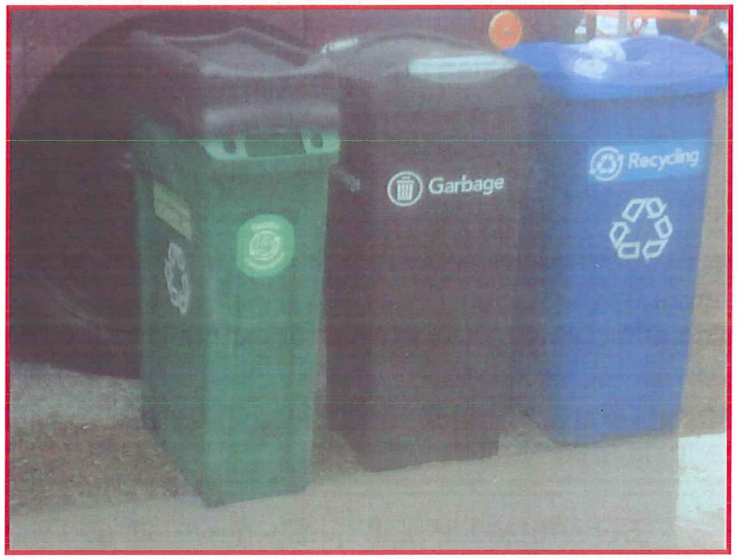
5.1 **Appearance.** Street-food vending carts, vehicles, and the public place vending area shall be:

- Constructed of high-quality materials and with an attractive, inviting appearance;
- Kept clean and in good repair;
- Kept free of stored materials such as pallets, cardboard boxes, and other debris; and
- Kept free of graffiti, that shall be immediately removed if found to exist.

Preferred: Compact and contained design

5.2 **Waste Stream Management.** Each street-food vending cart and vehicle shall supply garbage, recycling, and composting receptacles that are capable of accommodating all refuse generated by the vending activity.

- The containers shall be maintained, cleaned, and emptied regularly.
- The adjoining and abutting public place shall be free of all refuse of any kind generated from the vending activity.



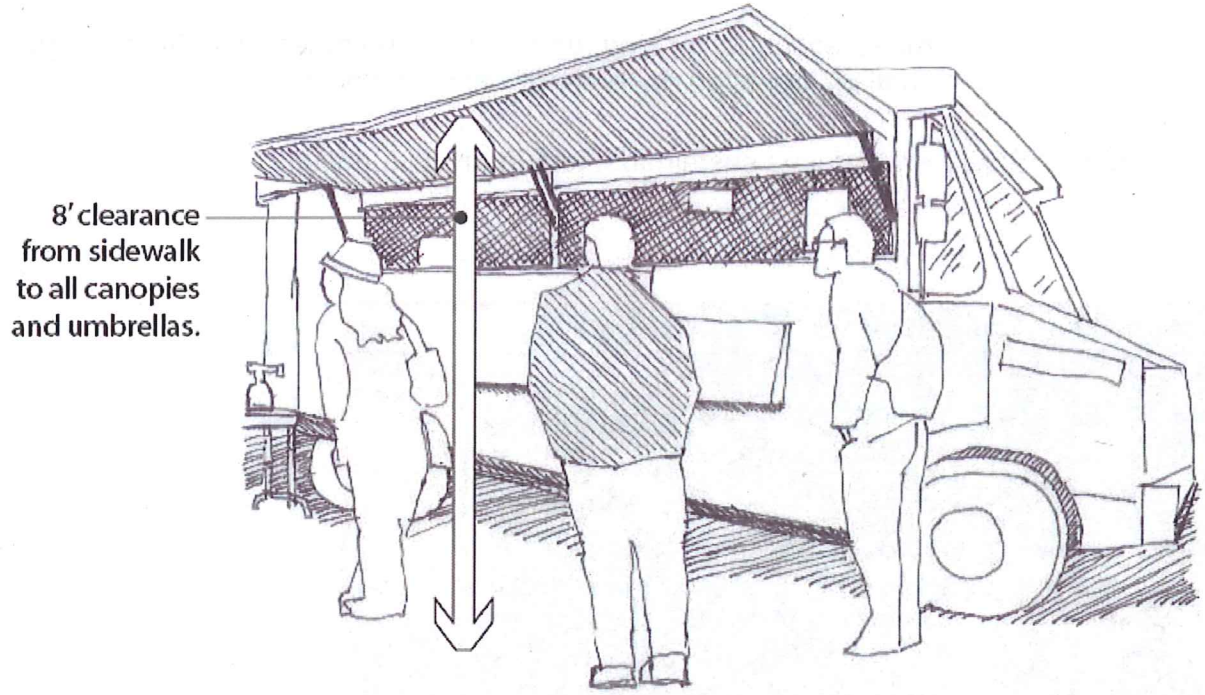
5.3 **Signage.** Signs and other graphic representations located on the food vehicle or vending cart shall be appropriate in size and conform to: SMC 23.55, Sign Code; applicable Historic or Landmark District guidelines; SMC Title 25, Environmental and Historic Preservation; and SMC Chapter 23.66, Special Review Districts.

- Signs shall only advertise goods that are sold on the vending cart or food vehicle. Signs should utilize large font and be easy to interpret in order to accommodate customers with visual impairments.
- Signs shall be made of durable, permanent materials.
- Signs shall be contained within the permitted footprint of the vending area.

5.4 **Vending Decal.** A Street Use Vending decal shall be affixed to any vending cart or food vehicle permitted to operate in the public place. This decal shall be prominently displayed at all times and shall be viewable by the public while the vending activity is occurring. SDOT shall provide this decal to the permittee at the time of permit issuance.

5.5 **Umbrellas, canopies, and awnings.** Any umbrellas, canopies, or awnings overhanging the public place and their associated supports shall be a minimum of 8 feet above the ground.

- Umbrellas, canopies, and awnings shall be clean and in good repair.
- Pop-up tents or canopies or free-standing umbrellas shall not be placed over or in the pedestrian zone.
- The umbrellas, canopies, or awnings shall not contain advertising other than what is allowed under: SMC 23.55, the Sign Code; applicable Historic or Landmark District guidelines; SMC Title 25, Environmental and Historic Preservation; and SMC Chapter 23.66, Special Review Districts.



5.6 **Lighting.** Lighting shall be shielded to minimize nighttime glare and shall be directed away from adjacent buildings and from vehicular traffic.

- Strobe lights are prohibited.

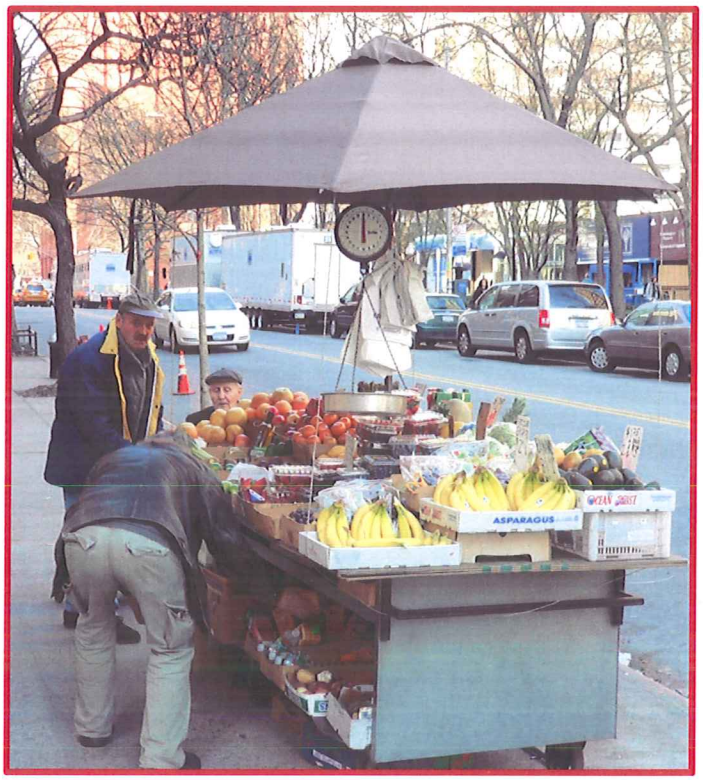
5.7 **Impediments.** The pedestrian zone adjacent to the permitted-vending area shall be kept free and clear for pedestrian mobility at all times.

- Accessories like condiment tables, coolers, or food displays/racks shall be kept within the permitted-use-area footprint.
- Fencing or other barriers to control customer queuing shall be:
  - Constructed of quality materials; and
  - Be detectable for those with visual or other sensory impairments and comply with ADA guidelines.
- Generators must be kept within the permitted use area footprint.
  - Power cords shall not extend across or be strung over the pedestrian zone area.
  - Generators must comply with the Seattle Noise ordinance, SMC Chapter 25.08.
  - Use of propane for refrigerators and lighting is encouraged.
- All accessories, fencing, generators, and other such impediments shall be identified on the application site plan.

5.8 SDOT encourages sustainable and innovative design,

Solar Panel Roof

healthy food options,



and fun design.