

# STREET USE PERMITTING FEE SCHEDULE CHANGES

April 2018

## OVERVIEW

Changes to the Street Use permitting fee schedule will be going into effect on **April 1, 2018**. Please read the following information carefully to ensure that you are prepared for these fee changes.

**Fee changes will be implemented based on the permit issuance date, not the permit application date.** All permits will be subject to these fee changes effective April 1, regardless of when application materials were submitted. Please be aware of typical permit review and processing times.

## WHY ARE CHANGES BEING MADE?

As Seattle continues to see an increase in density, development, and infrastructure investments, our division must maintain a more robust permitting program to protect the City's assets, ensure safety, and preserve mobility during construction.

With approval from City Council as part of the 2018 budget, we are implementing changes to our permitting fee schedule to more accurately reflect the true costs of project permitting.

Our updated fee structure will allow us to cover costs not adequately covered by the previous rate and fee structure, thereby providing opportunities to advance policy, process, and system improvements that have previously been deferred. It will also allow us to operate with the staffing levels necessary to issue, review, and inspect permits.

## PERMIT ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL FEE CHANGES

Year	Construction Permits				Public Space		
	ROWM Simple	ROWM Complex	SIP/UMP	Modification and Extension	Short Term	Long Term	Renewal
2017	\$146	\$305	\$146	\$155	\$146	\$146	\$140
2018	\$150*	\$313*	\$4,700	\$159*	\$175	\$224	\$170

\*Based on cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

**Construction Use, Utility, Urban Forestry, and Street Improvement Permitting**  
SDOTPermits@seattle.gov | (206) 684-5253

**Public Space Permitting**  
publicspace@seattle.gov | (206) 684-5267



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

## SHORT-TERM PUBLIC SPACE PERMITS

For **short-term public space permits**, the permit issuance fee is increasing from \$146 to **\$175**.

This change applies to short-term public space permits that are not renewed and are generally issued for less than one year in duration. These types of permits include those issued for special activities and event pole banners.

Permits for play streets and block parties will remain free of fees.

## LONG-TERM PUBLIC SPACE PERMITS

As opposed to short-term public space permits, long-term public space permits are scheduled to renew yearly and are subject to an annual renewal fee.

Fences, retaining walls, sidewalk cafés, and signs are examples of right-of-way uses that require this type of permit. For these long-term public space permits, the issuance fee is increasing from \$146 to **\$224**, while the annual renewal fee is increasing from \$140 to **\$170**.

Additionally, annual occupation fees will increase based on a cost-of-living adjustment for many uses. More information on these changes will be posted on our website at [www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/fees-and-costs](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/fees-and-costs).

## PUBLIC AMENITY PERMITS

**Costs will be decreasing for permits for public amenities**, such as street furniture and artwork.

While the issuance fee for public amenities is increasing from \$146 to **\$224** for the first year of issuance, permit holders will be allowed to renew their permits for free every year thereafter, as long as renewal is approved.

Permittees are still responsible for ongoing maintenance of these right-of-way uses. Uses may be subject to inspections, billed at the current hourly rate, particularly when complaints related to the use are received by SDOT.

## GENERAL CHANGES

The general rate for permit review and site inspections is increasing from \$209/hr to **\$260/hr**.

## CONSTRUCTION USE, UTILITY, URBAN FORESTRY, AND STREET IMPROVEMENT PERMIT (SIP) PERMITS

Fees are changing to better reflect the size and complexity of projects, as well as to more fully cover our costs.

Smaller, simpler projects will see smaller increases in issuance, renewal, review, and inspection fees based on cost-of-living adjustments, while larger fee increases, typically for more complex projects, reflect cost-recovery adjustments.

Large private-development projects will see the greatest increase in fees, with the next largest increases being seen by high-impact private utility projects.

The permit issuance and renewal fee changes for construction permits will be as follows:

- ROWM Simple: \$146 to **\$150**
- ROWM Complex: \$305 to **\$313**
- Street Improvement Permits (SIP) / Utility Major Permits (UMP): \$146 to **\$4700**
- Permit modification and extension: \$155 to **\$159**

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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Make sure you are fully prepared before applying for your permit, as **the coming changes will favor well-prepared applicants**.

**We will be hosting at least two workshops** to provide further guidance and additional information through this process. Workshops will be held:

- **March 5, 10 AM – 11 AM**, Seattle Municipal Tower (700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave), Floor 38, Room 3832
- **March 15, 10 AM – 11 AM**, Bank of America Building (800 5<sup>th</sup> Ave), Floor 30, Room 3004

Please contact Liz Sheldon at [elizabeth.sheldon@seattle.gov](mailto:elizabeth.sheldon@seattle.gov) to RSVP.

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