



INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR RPZ PERMITS

September 2026

In 2013, the Seattle City Council adopted legislation to allow the SDOT Director to consider requests for Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) permits for employees within an RPZ, provided the request is consistent with Council-specified criteria in the new law (SMC 11.16.315), and can be done while maintaining the goals of the RPZ program, namely:

- Reduce neighborhood traffic impacts by large parking demand generators
- Support mixed-use neighborhoods and local business districts
- Continue to reduce overall energy use and vehicle emissions
- Keep demand by residents and employees from exceeding available on-street parking spaces in residential areas
- Implement a customer-oriented permit program

In responding to such requests, SDOT will consider the following criteria in determining if it is appropriate to issue RPZ permits to businesses:

Permits for businesses are not issued in most dense neighborhoods, including Capitol Hill, South Lake Union, Eastlake, Fremont, Roosevelt, Uptown, and Judkins Park.

SDOT may also conduct outreach as it considers requests, to determine whether existing residential permit holders have concerns about issuance of permits to business employees within the zone.

It will take 4-6 weeks to evaluate each request. The cost of an RPZ permit is currently \$95. Most zones renew every two years (except Zones 6 and 10, which are renewed annually). Permits are vehicle-specific. If approved, employers will need to sign and submit an affidavit with the names and license plate numbers of employees to whom permits will be issued.

Criteria in SMC 11.16.315	How Criteria Will Be Applied
Availability of on-street parking on non-RPZ-signed blocks that is within a reasonable walking distance of the employer	SDOT considers whether there is non-RPZ parking in an approximately ¼ mile area around the employer's place of business.
Availability of alternate modes of transportation within a reasonable distance	SDOT will identify available transit within ¼ mile, and will consider number of routes, hours, and frequency of service. SDOT will also consider the availability of bicycle infrastructure and other alternate mode facilities.
Availability of off-street parking within a reasonable distance	SDOT will consider public parking available within ¼ mile. This includes parking that is advertised as being available on a monthly or daily basis for a fee to the general public.
Availability of on-street parking in the RPZ	Parking on RPZ blocks within ¼ mile must be under 50% full.
Time of day that employees work	SDOT will consider applicant information provided related to non-standard employee hours, when transit may be less available.
Number of permits requested by the employer	SDOT will consider the number of employee permits requested at the time of application, as well as potential additional permits that could be requested by the employer. Additional permits must not increase calculated potential occupancy over 85%.
Existence of other employers within the RPZ that could potentially also request employee permits	SDOT will consider the number of other employers and employees within the RPZ who could potentially request permits. Additional permits must not increase calculated potential occupancy over 85%.
Other hardships that may exist	

INFORMATION & CONTACT
rpzrequests@seattle.gov
(206) 491-9775



Seattle
Department of
Transportation