



August 22, 2025

Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) Director's Rule Update

We're updating the Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) Director's Rule in 2025. We first created the Rule in 2009, and many changes have happened in both our City and our RPZ program since that time. We want the Rule to accurately explain how the program currently works so that it's a useful resource for applicants and for anyone who wants to understand the RPZ program.

Why do we need a Director's Rule?

The RPZ Director's Rule explains how we interpret the laws in the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to operate and manage the program. The SMC describes the legal requirements for the program, but we use a Director's Rule to provide information about how we put those requirements into practice. The Administrative Code of the SMC (3.02) gives us authority to do this. The Director's Rule explains application requirements, permit eligibility, how new RPZs are created, and how existing RPZs can change.

What's new?

We are making some **updates to the existing information** in the RPZ Director's Rule:

- We are updating language about the purpose of the RPZ program so that it is more direct and easier to understand.
- We are removing language about physical permits that are "placed" on a vehicle. We completed the transition to digital permits at the end of 2023, and we no longer issue permits in the form of stickers or decals that are placed on a car's windshield.
- We are updating permit names so that we are using the same names we use on our website and our permit applications.
- We are updating the section about Employee/ Business permits in Southeast Seattle Link Light Rail Station areas. The current Rule describes this as a "pilot" program, but this is now a permanent program.

We are also adding some **new information**:

- We are adding a table that lists all the RPZ permit types, how long they are valid, and whether they are specific to a vehicle; this will help make all the RPZ permit options easier to understand.
- We are creating a new section about who is eligible to purchase permits within a Zone and at the edges of Zones.
- We are adding a section about Employee permits. In 2013, Seattle's City Council passed an ordinance about considering employee permits outside of the Southeast Seattle Link Light Rail Station areas. The new section explains what information we consider when making decisions about allowing employee permits in these other areas of the city.



- We are adding a section about the process for making small changes to Zones; for example, this section explains how a resident can request to add their block to a nearby RPZ.
- We're adding language about final boundaries for RPZs. RPZs should not become so large that they lose their intended purpose (to reduce all-day commuter parking related to a large commuting center, such as a business district, hospital, or university, or light rail station.)

More information:

- To learn basic information about RPZs, you can visit our [website](#) or read our RPZ Fact Sheet [here](#).
- If you wish to submit comments, please email us at rpzrequests@seattle.gov by September 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM or call us at (206) 491-9775.