



MOBILE FOOD VENDING PERMITS

This Client Assistance Memo (CAM) summarizes the rules and process for obtaining a mobile food unit vending permit. This CAM addresses mobile vendors such as:

- Ice cream trucks; or
- Non-motorized food carts; or
- Similar mobile units

For information on stationary-food-vehicle vending in a designated curb space Food Vehicle Zone refer to [CAM 2507](#), for Stadium and Event Center Vending refer to [CAM 2508](#), or for Temporary Curb Space Vending refer to [CAM 2510](#).

MOBILE FOOD VENDING PERMITS

- Vending from a mobile vending unit is allowed on public streets, sidewalks and plazas with a valid Street Use vending permit.
- Mobile vendors may sell flowers and food and beverages that are exempt from the food-establishment permit requirement of the King County Board of Health.
- Products other than food, non-alcoholic beverages and flowers are not allowed to be vended in the right-of-way.
- This type of Street Use permit is valid for one year.

A. LOCATION AND ROUTE

1. **Route.** To vend out of a mobile unit, a vendor must find a route that meets all setback requirements (at the designated points the vendor will stop to vend). Mobile vending is prohibited:
 - Within 50 feet of any public park;
 - Within 1,000 feet of any public or private school containing any class - kindergarten through 12th grade;
 - Within 50 feet of any food-service business;



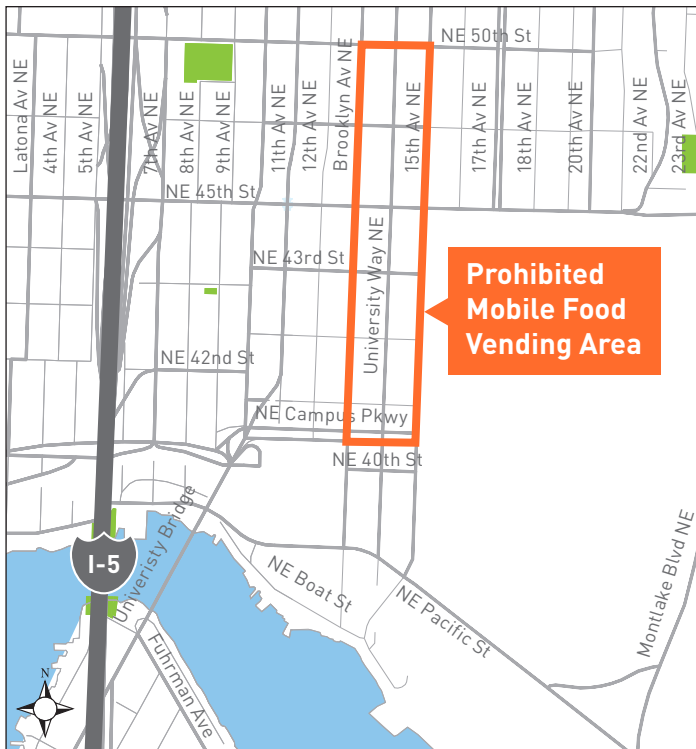
2. **No Vending Zones.** Mobile food vending is prohibited within the greater downtown and university district boundaries shown on maps on the following pages.

Access to Information

Client Assistance Memos are available online at: www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse_home.htm. Paper copies of these documents are available at our Permit Services Counter located on the 23rd floor of the Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle; phone number (206) 684-5253.

This map of Seattle, WA, highlights the 'Prohibited Mobile Food Vending Area' in orange. The area is bounded by Elliott Bay to the west and south, and extends inland to the east. Key streets shown include 16th Av W, Elliott Av W, W Lee St, W Comstock St, W Highland St, W Prospect St, W Kinnear St, W Olympic Pl, W Mercer St, W Republican St, W Harrison St, W Thomas St, W John St, Broad St, Dexter Av N, 9th Av N, Westlake Av N, Valley St, Roy St, Mercer St, Republican St, Harrison St, Boren Av N, Fairview Av N, Minor Av N, Yale Av N, Melrose Av E, Summit Av E, Belmont Av E, F Roy St, Boylston Av E, Harvard Av E, Harvard St, Boylston Av, Minor Av, Boren Av, Terry Av, 9th Av, 8th Av, 7th Av S, Maynard Av S, 6th Av S, S Holgate St, S Massachusetts St, Edgar Martinez Dr S, S Royal Brougham Way, Alaskan Way S, 1st Av S, Yesler Way, James St, Columbus St, Marion St, Madison St, Sprague St, University St, 4th Av, Pine St, Stewart St, Howell St, Oliver Way, Eastlake Av E, and Airport Way S. Major highways 99 and I-5 are also indicated. The map includes a north arrow and labels for Lake Union and Elliott Bay.

PROHIBITED MOBILE FOOD VENDING AREA - UNIVERSITY DISTRICT



3. **Clear Pedestrian Zone.** A clear pedestrian zone at least five feet wide and linear pedestrian visual corridor at least 3 wide must be maintained at all times on the sidewalk adjacent to the food cart. The pedestrian zone is measured from the outside edge of the mobile vending unit to the nearest obstruction; for example, a tree pit, parking pay station, bike rack, sign post, or other similar object. If no obstruction exists, the pedestrian zone is measured to the back of the curb. See diagram A at the end of this CAM.

Free-standing umbrellas or canopies, A-frame signs, portable signs, planters, seating or any other objects are not allowed to be placed in the right-of-way associated with a mobile food vending unit. Umbrellas attached to a cart must have a vertical clearance of 8-feet.

4. **Setbacks.** In addition to the zone restrictions described above, the following setbacks are required and must be maintained at each vending location:
 - 3 feet from the front of the curb for vending carts on the sidewalk;

- 5 feet from alleys, driveways, transit-zone areas, disabled-person parking zones, food-vehicle zones, and commercial loading zones;
- 5 feet from curb ramps, parking meters or parking pay stations, traffic signs, SDOT and utility poles, fire hydrants, bike racks, and other street fixtures;
- 10 feet along the curb line from the point where the radius of the corner-curb area intersects the curb line (see Diagram B);
- 15 feet from any business entrance or exit.

B. ALLOWABLE TYPES OF FOOD

Food vended from a mobile vending unit must be King County health-permit exempt. Documentation of King County approval of exemption is required. The following are examples of exemption-eligible food products:

- Popcorn (including kettle corn)
- Ice cream
- Cotton candy
- Machine-crushed ice drinks (aka “slushies,” in which premix is frozen within and dispensed from an enclosed machine)
- Corn on the cob (Prepared for immediate service. Butter, shake-on spices or commercial mayonnaise in squeeze bottle OK.)
- Roasted nuts, roasted peanuts (including candy-coated)
- Ready-to-eat food, that is not potentially hazardous, produced in a licensed food establishment or food processing plant (such as premixed soda pop, powdered creamer, pretzels, cookies, doughnuts, cake, or meat jerky) that are served without direct hand contact, with limited portioning, directly onto or into sanitary single-use articles or single-service articles from the original package
- Hot beverages (such as coffee, hot tea, or hot apple cider)

For more information on health-permit exempt food, please visit King County Public Health’s website at www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/foodsafety/FoodBusiness/exemptions.aspx, or call them at (206) 296-4600.

C. CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Permits for mobile food vending may be subject to the following conditions and any additional conditions necessary to maintain mobility and ensure public safety, health and welfare:

- Vendors shall display the vending permit and vending decal in a prominent location on the cart or vending vehicle
- Vendors must comply with city noise regulations as specified in Chapter 25.08 of the Seattle Municipal Code

D. APPLICATION TO SDOT

A street use mobile food vending permit is required to operate a mobile food vending unit in the right-of-way. This type of permit is valid for up to one year.

To apply for a mobile food vending permit, submit the following items:

- [Completed Vending Application](#)
- Map of proposed route including locations where unit will stop to vend
- Proposed hours of operation
- Pictures of mobile unit
- Proof of Health Permit Exemption
- City business license
- Menu
- Certificate of Liability Insurance (see [CAM 2102](#) for more on this requirement.)

To submit your application:

Email: AnnualPermits@Seattle.gov

In person: Street Use Permit Counter
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 5th Ave, Floor 23
(Permit intake ends at 4:30)

E. CONTACT INFORMATION

Street Use Division - Annual Permits
(206) 684-5267
AnnualPermits@Seattle.gov

Seattle Municipal Tower, 23rd Floor
700 5th Avenue
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, Washington 98124-4996

G. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Seattle Municipal Code, Chapter 15.17:
www.municode.com/library/wa/seattle/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT15STSIUS_SUBTITLE_ISTUSOR_CH15.17VE_15.17.130MOODVEPUPL

DIAGRAM A

Exhibit A for 15.02.046

Pedestrian Zone / Pedestrian Visual Corridor

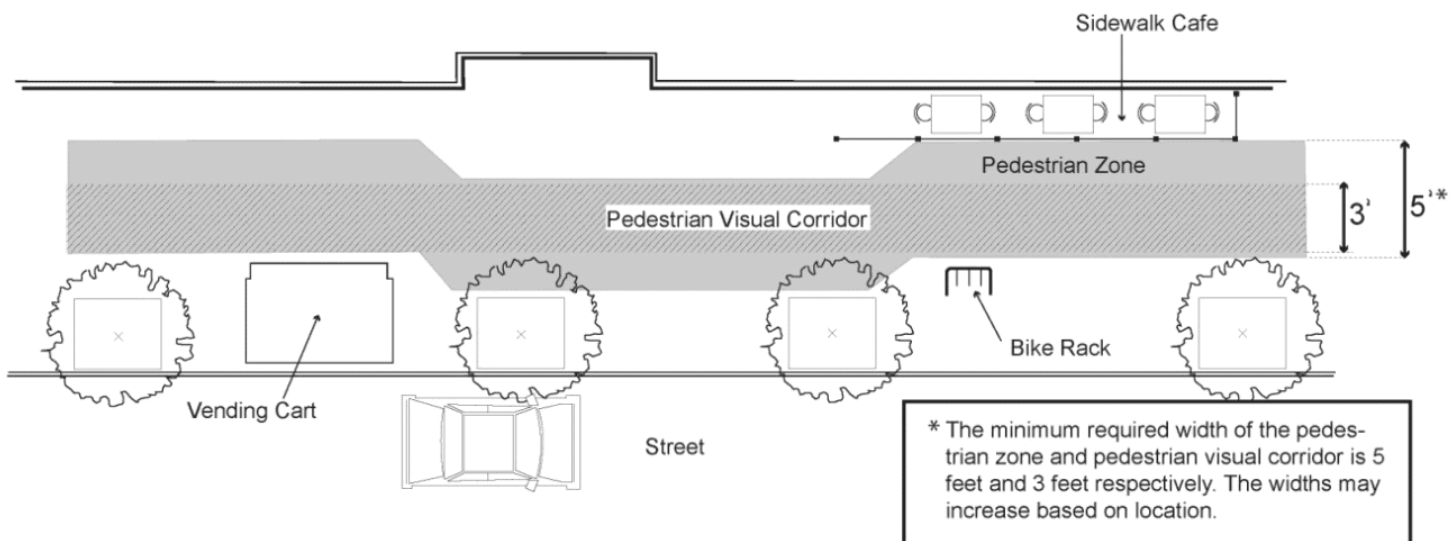
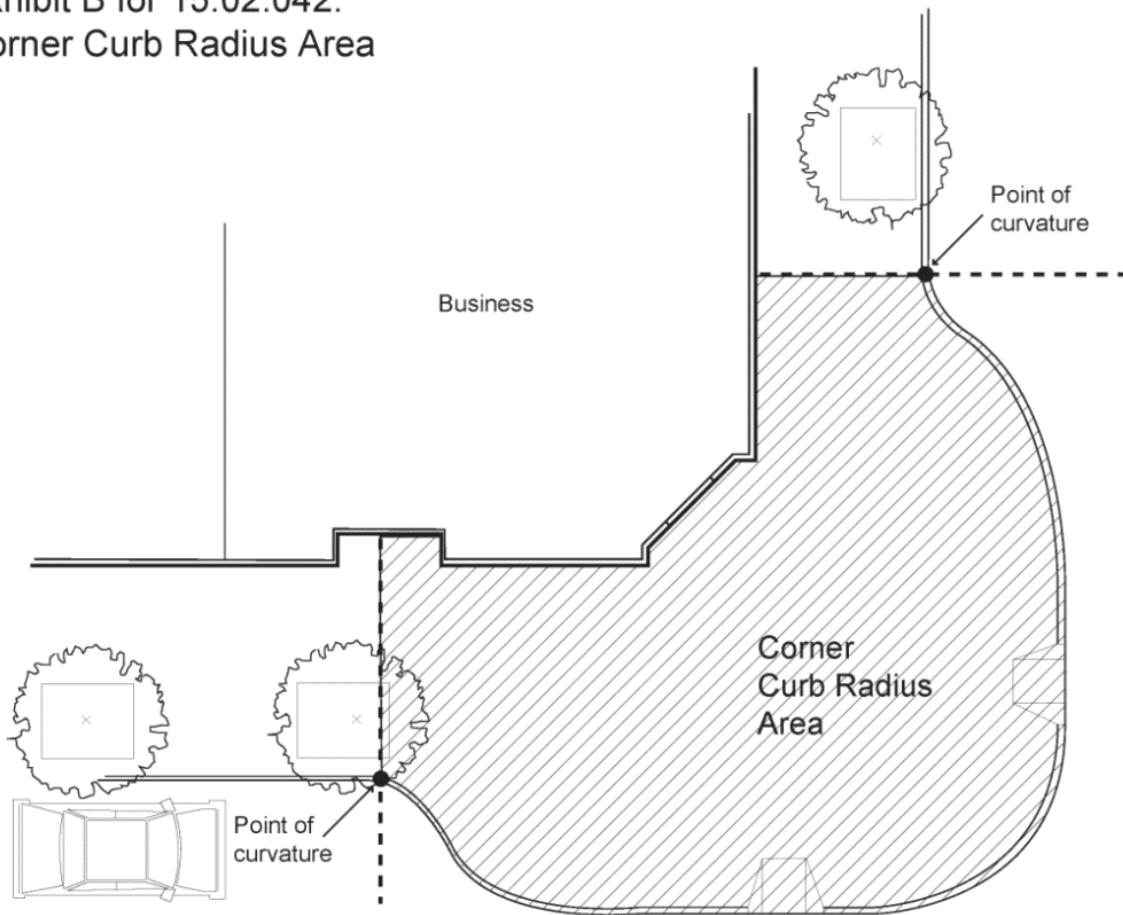


DIAGRAM B

“Corner-curb-radius area” means the area that includes the intersection of two sidewalks bounded by the adjoining corner or curb bulb and curb ramps (Exhibit B for 15.02.042: Corner-curb-radius area). If the start of the point of curvature for the curb bulb or curb radius occurs beyond the sidewalk intersections, the area shall be extended to the point of curvature for the curb bulb or curb radius.

Exhibit B for 15.02.042:
Corner Curb Radius Area



LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This Client Assistance Memo (CAM) should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. The applicant is responsible for compliance with all code and rule requirements, whether or not described in this CAM.