

City of Tacoma

Standing Committee Memorandum

| TO: FROM: | Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services Director |
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| | Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer |
| COPY: | Economic and Development Committee; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager |
| PRESENTER: | Jana Magoon, Planning Manager; Jennifer Kammerzell, Principal Engineer |
| SUBJECT: | Curbside Café and Market Program Update |
| DATE: | October 27, 2020 |

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Planning and Development Services (PDS) and Public Works (PW) staff will present an update on the temporary programs available to businesses during the State's response to COVID-19. The presentation will include the Curbside Café and Market Program, Food Load Zones, and 8th Street Eatery. Staff will discuss program limitations and opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

During the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, PDS and PW undertook several initiatives to assist the business community in addressing the impacts caused by the pandemic. In Phase 1 Stay Home, Stay Safe, the City introduced temporary Food Loading Zones and ADA parking stalls. In Phase 2 Safe Start, the City promoted the temporary Curbside Café and Market Program and existing temporary Sidewalk Café Program. The Community and Economic Development Department and Downtown Tacoma Partnership also partnered on the 8th Street Eatery that opened a street to pedestrians and customers.

Curbside café/markets, also known as streateries or parklets, are similar to sidewalk cafés but located in a parking space in the right-of-way. They function as an extension to an existing restaurant's seating area or retail store. Curbside cafes/markets are permitted to be used only during the regular operating business hours of the host establishment. Private use of the public right-of-way typically requires entering into a formal agreement with the City; however, as a pilot program, this requirement was waived in an effort to support local businesses affected by closures related to COVID-19.

The intent of these pilot programs are to increase the capacity for businesses to comply with the requirements of Governor Inslee's Safe Start phased reopening plan. A permit for the Curbside Café and Market Pilot and Sidewalk Café programs can accommodate temporary structures such as tables, chairs, planters, merchant displays, and shade coverings.

ISSUE:

The presentation will inform this Committee and receive input regarding the existing programs. The discussion will include results from participation, feedback from businesses, and other areas of interest to the Committee.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing only. There are no fiscal impacts.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only. There are no fiscal impacts.