

Draft Long-term Recommendations

Updates to Outdoor Dining, Vending, Merchandise Display,
and Street & Sidewalk Activities Programs

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Our Vision, Mission, Values, & Goals

Vision: Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation

Mission: to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities

Committed to **6 core values:**

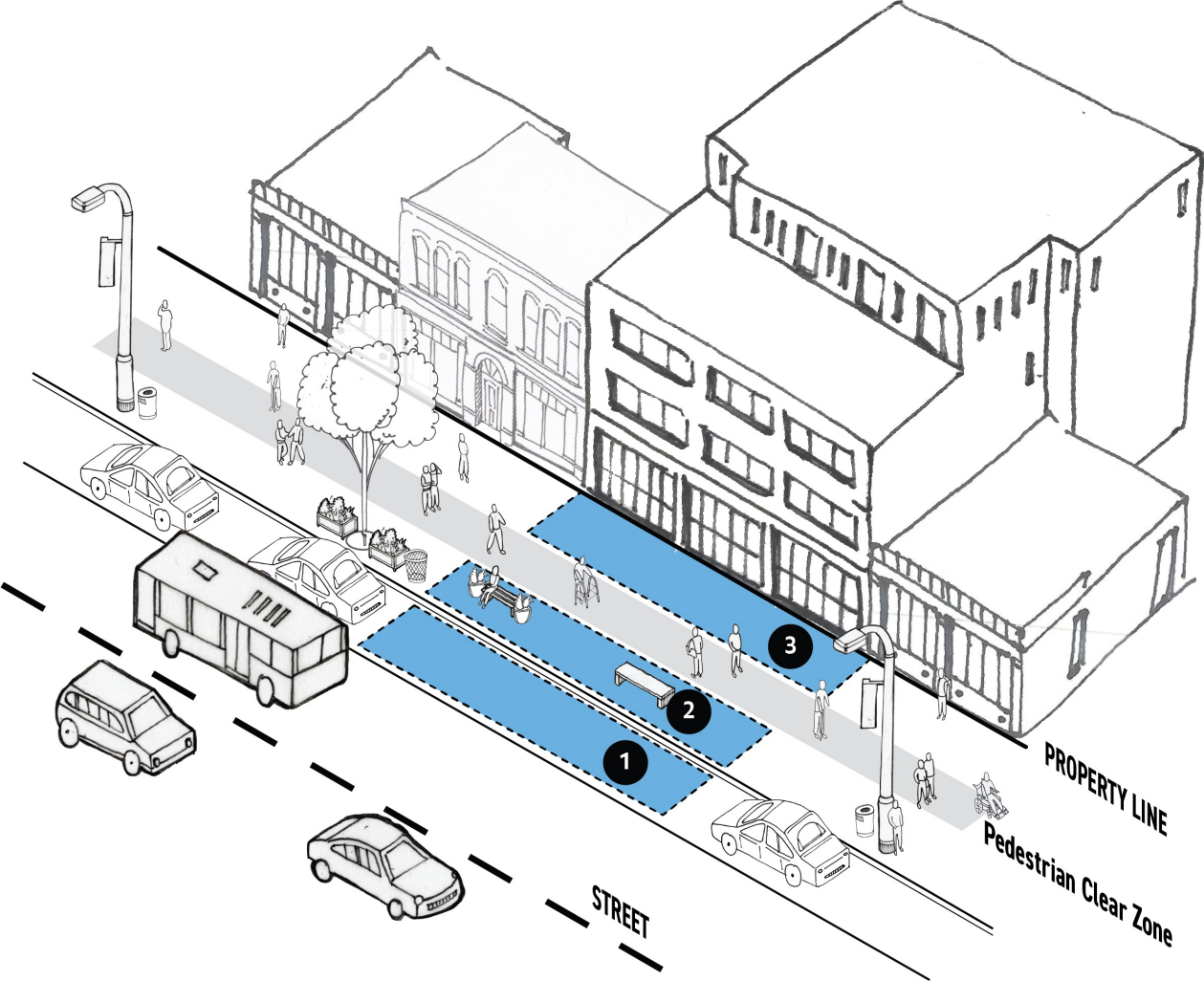
- Equity
- Safety
- Mobility
- Sustainability
- Livability
- Excellence

Presentation outline

- Background
- Outreach & Themes
- Recommendations



Public Space Management 101



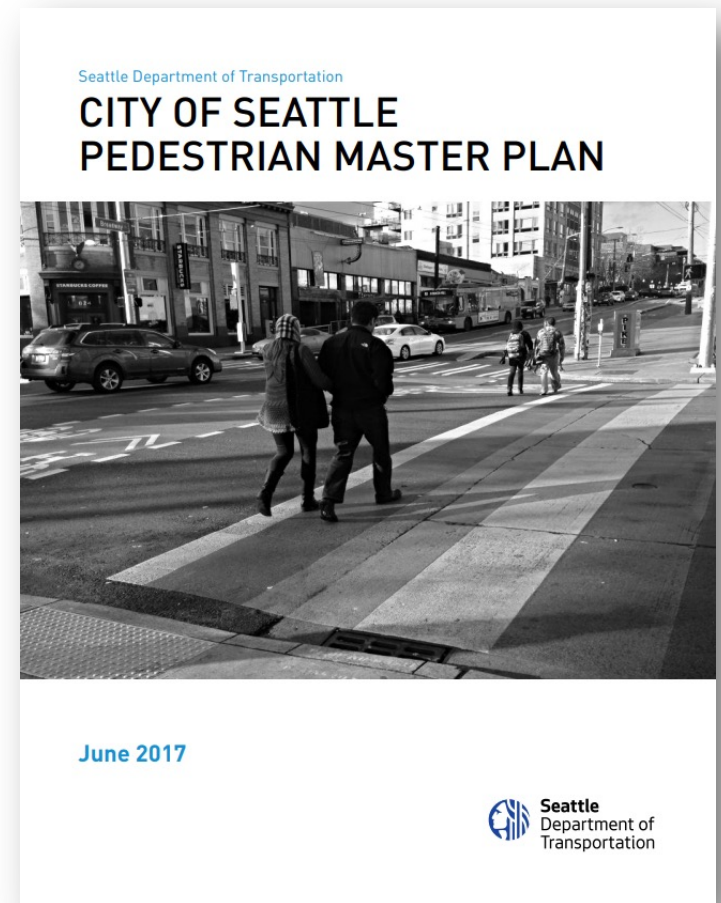
- 1. Curbspace
- 2. Furniture Zone
- 3. Frontage Zone

Timeline



Policy support

- To align with Seattle 2035 Comp Plan
- To fulfill the vision of the Pedestrian Master Plan:
 - Seattle is the most walkable and accessible city in the nation
 - Ensure our standards reflect the increasing demand for sidewalk space
- To align with Transportation Equity Framework
- To align with climate goals



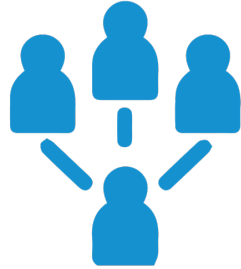
"Develop a more vibrant city by creating streets and sidewalks that generate economic and social activity, adding to the city's overall health, prosperity, and happiness" - Seattle 2035

Safe Start outreach to-date



Surveys

- General survey with over 10,000 responses
- Surveys to participating and non-participating businesses
- Surveys and interviews with vendors



Community Meetings

- Disability rights groups
- Business advocacy groups
- Internal stakeholders
- Transportation advocates



BIPOC-focused Outreach

- 2020 RET on Title 15
- Our Transportation Equity Workgroup
- 1x1 interviews with BIPOC stakeholders, businesses, and community groups



Evaluations

- Safe Start 1.0
- Seattle Together Streets
- Market Streets

Safe Start outreach to-date

Support for Safe Start Permits:



90%

Cafés in the
curb space



90%

Sidewalk cafés



90%

Street closures
for dining and
shopping



89%

Food trucks or
carts in curb
spaces



83%

Food carts on
sidewalks



65%

Sidewalk retail
displays



59%

Retail displays
in curb spaces

Source: Summer 2021 public and business community survey regarding the Safe Start street use permitting program.

Safe Start 1.0 learnings

- People strongly supported the program
- Strong support for lowered costs and barriers
- We're viewed as a partner rather than burdensome process
- Public space activation still requires substantial investment of time and money
- People disliked impacts to parking and travel, impacts to sidewalks



Safe Start 2.0 themes

- **Equity**

- Lower fees and lower barriers (RET, TEF Lab)
- Implement programs to support BIPOC-owned small businesses (TEF Lab)

- **Flexibility**

- Move rules from SMC to Director's Rules
- Implement Director's Rules that allow consistent decision making
- Evaluate and adjust

- **Collaborative Approach**

- Continue collaborative coaching for applicants
- Increase and improve educational tools
- Implement programs to build community capacity in permitting process



Proposed changes: outdoor dining

- Emphasize the public nature of the street, fit into and enhance streetscape
- Cafes are visually permeable, attractive, durable, graffiti-resistant, and easy to clean and maintain
- Public space outside of business hours (can't lock up the space)



Proposed changes: vending



- Eliminate 50' buffer from food & flower businesses
- Remove limitation of max 2 vendors per block face
- Eliminate setbacks from high schools & parks
- New "trial" vending permit option
- Allow vending in Neighborhood Residential zones (detailed implementation to be addressed by Director's Rule)
- Remove codified barriers to other types of vending (merchandise, arts & crafts) and develop guidelines to be adopted by Director's Rule to try out new options incrementally

Proposed changes: street closures

- Allow ongoing street closures to support business, with both full-year and seasonal options
- Single-business closures will only be allowed if public seating or community programming are provided
- Full-year or seasonal permits will be issued for public events
- Private street and sidewalk closures will be allowed for shorter duration events only



Proposed changes: merchandise displays



- No permit required for frontage zone merchandise display (standards)
- Furniture zone displays require permits (either seasonal or long-term)
- Curbspace merchandise display no longer allowed

Proposed changes: fees

- Will be reintroduced in 2023
- Focus on cost recovery
- Level set between curbspace and sidewalk cafes
- Nominal fees for public street & sidewalk activities and closures
- Exploring strategies to lower barriers for participation



Questions?

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