



Music Venue Zone Permit Program

Governance, Accountability & Economic Development Committee
August 8, 2024

Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. How it works today
3. What we heard from venues and artists
4. Legislation overview

Curbside Management Overview

- SDOT's Curbside Management team leads consideration and implementation of how to effectively manage the curb with a variety of tools consistent with guiding policies and standards
- The "curbside" is the area along the street adjacent to the sidewalk which typically provides space for parking, loading, and other access needs



Curbside Management Overview

- Curbspace is a limited but highly valuable resource that SDOT proactively manages.
- A priority is supporting businesses' Critical Access Needs along the curb.
- Critical Access Needs are curb functions that allow a business to meet its basic business needs (including loading for people and goods.)



How music venue parking & loading works today

Three main approaches

- Venues use Temporary No Parking Permits
- Venues reserve space on their own using temporary signs and sandwich boards
- Artists search for loading/parking nearby



Temporary No Parking Permits (TNPs)

- Used to restrict paid and unpaid parking on an as-needed basis
- Better match for construction, moving vans or special events like parades
- Cannot be used for parking, only loading
- Ad hoc, as-needed per show vs ongoing need
 - Time-intensive and slow process
 - Incompatible with unpredictable nature of the live music industry



Musician Priority Loading Pilot

- 2014 pilot of advisory signage at 5 venues
- Advisory & not enforceable
- Anyone can use these spaces for loading
- Parking in these spaces is not allowed



← **Regulatory sign**
(30 min load/unload)

← **Advisory sign**
(Musician Priority)

What we heard

- Outreach to Seattle Music Commission, Washington Nightlife Music Association, venues and musicians via survey
- Parking and loading have a strong impact on artists' gigs and venue operations
- Searching for parking and loading adds time and stress for artists
- Existing approaches do not meet venues' daily needs for artist parking and loading

Rock On! We want to hear from local musicians and venues about parking and loading needs. Survey open now through November 30.

by [Ethan Bancroft](#) on November 2, 2023



What we heard

- Over 300 responses to survey: 266 musicians and 42 venues
- Responses highlighted how parking and loading uniquely affects artists and venue operations

"We need the room to park semis, busses, trailers, vans, ... This makes the music happen!"

"I often worry about parking as much as the gig itself! It's a huge stressor for me."

"We accommodate major tours ... that have to be unloaded, moved to another location, brought back, and re-loaded. It is expensive and time-consuming for both the tour and the venue."

"The number one biggest stressors ... is coordination of parking and loading ... It makes every single show more difficult and less fun. "

Music Venue Zone Legislation Goals

- Support venues and musicians with easier access for artist loading and parking
- Create a simple process for venues to apply for permits
- Address unique curbside needs near music venues



Music Venue Zone Legislation

The proposed legislation would:

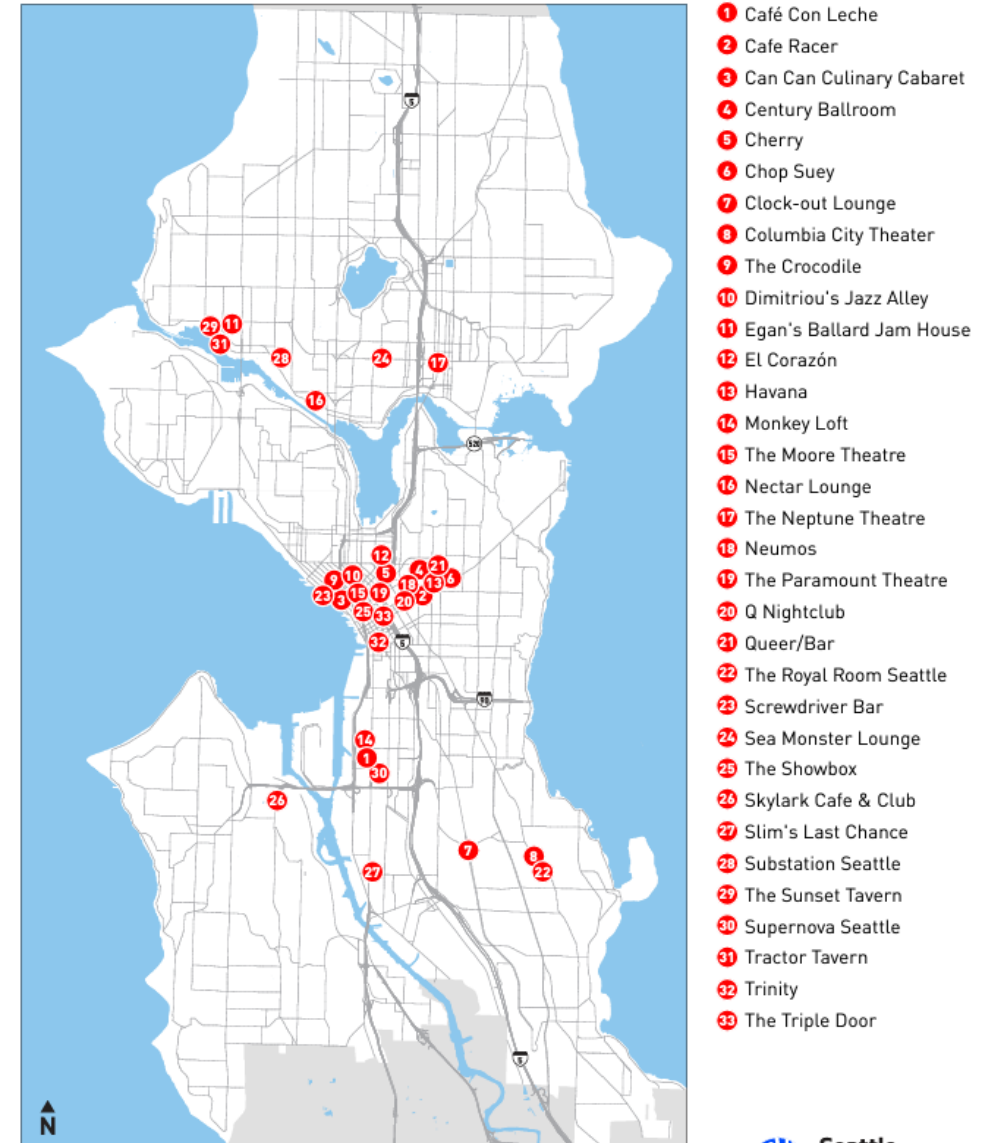
- Formally establish a new, enforceable curbside designation in the Seattle Municipal Code
- Authorize SDOT to develop a new Music Venue Zone Permit



Music Venue Zone Permit

- SDOT issue permits to qualifying venues that apply (up to 33 venues as of June 2024)
- Qualifying criteria: must host live music performances and charge admission at least 2x per week on a regular basis
- Each venue can apply for one permit maximum. Each permit allows up to three on-street spaces
- \$250 annual fee per permit

Venues potentially eligible as of June 2024



Music Venue Permit: How it Works

- Each permit allows up to three Music Venue Zone spaces per venue
- Parking and loading allowed 24 hours a day, 7-days a week with valid permit document displayed in vehicles
- Vehicles in zones without valid permit displayed would be subject to citation and impound



Next Steps

1. City Council consideration and approval
↓
2. SDOT develops permit application
↓
3. SDOT begins issuing permits and installs zones



Questions & Discussion

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