



# SDOT Safe Start Permit Program *Proposed long-term changes*

Outdoor Dining, Merchandise Display, Vending, & more

Photo source: Eater Seattle

# Our Vision, Mission, & Core Values

Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation. We're on a mission to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities.

We value equity, safety, mobility, sustainability, livability, and excellence.

# Presentation Outline

1. Background and Learnings from the Safe Start Program
2. Program Mission and Themes
3. Proposed Changes

# Background, Outreach and Learnings Summary

# Safe Start program background

- Began in Summer 2020
- Expanded SDOT's outdoor dining, vending, and street closure permitting options to support businesses during the pandemic
- Streamlined & free permits currently valid through May 2022
- Proposing to extend through January 2023
- Received \$300k in federal recovery funding to support the program
- Issued 276 Safe Start permits



# 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
- SDOT's Transportation Equity Workgroup
- 1x1 interviews with BIPOC stakeholders, businesses, and community groups

## Evaluations

- Safe Start 1.0
- Seattle Together Streets
- Market Streets

# Safe Start survey results

## Support for Safe Start Permits:



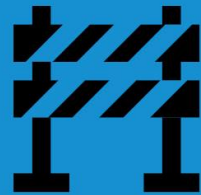
**90%**

Cafés in the curbside space



**90%**

Sidewalk cafés



**90%**

Street closures for dining and shopping



**89%**

Food trucks or carts in curbside spaces



**83%**

Food carts on sidewalks



**65%**

Sidewalk retail displays



**59%**

Retail displays in curbside spaces

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

# Safe Start survey results cont.

## Most liked aspects

- Outdoor dining made people feel safer during pandemic
- Street vibrancy and ambience
- Small business support
- Community building

## Could be improved

- Impacts to parking
- Impacts to travel (Street Closures)
- Impacts to sidewalk and ADA mobility
- Maintenance issues



# Other learnings

- **Strong support for lowered costs and barriers** to participating businesses
- **SDOT viewed as a partner**, helping coach applicants through permit process
- Outdoor cafes still require **substantial investment of time and money**
- **Long-term public health and resilience benefits** to increasing outdoor social space
- **Community partnership in planning and design is critical** for public space activation

# Program Mission and Themes

# Draft program mission

Develop an **equitable and iterative approach** to continue the success of the Safe Start program to:

- Help **small businesses** thrive;
- Increase **the vibrancy** of our public realm; and
- Preserve needed **access and mobility**.

# Safe Start 2.0 themes

- **Equity**
  - Implement strategies to support BIPOC-owned small businesses
- **Flexibility**
  - Create rules that are consistent and predictable, allowing for flexibility when appropriate
- **Collaborative Approach**
  - Continue collaborative coaching for applicants
  - Increase and improve educational tools
  - Implement programs to build community capacity in permitting process

# Preliminary Draft Changes

# Proposed changes



Outdoor dining



Merchandise display



Vending



Street activation

# Proposed next steps

## Winter 2022

- Continue to develop program proposal
- Racial Equity Toolkit analysis

## Spring 2022

- Extend current permits to new expiration date
- Draft package with program proposal to Council
- Continue stakeholder and public outreach

## Summer 2022

- Develop final legislation package, including Director's Rule edits
- Pass legislation and finalize implementation plan

## January 2023

- Temporary permits end and transition to permanent

# Questions?

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[www.seattle.gov/transportation](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation)

