



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: June 7, 2005
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Dan Niziolek, Chair Public Safety & Regulatory Services

Subject: New Sidewalk Café Standards

Recommendation:
Receive and File Draft Sidewalk Café Standards

Previous Directives:
Existing City of Minneapolis Ordinance 265.280

Prepared by: Doug Maday, Public Works and Ken Ziegler, Regulatory Services

Approved by: _____
Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Rocco Forte, Assistant City Coordinator, Regulatory Services

Presenters: Doug Maday & Ken Ziegler

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

Due to the increase in demand for new cafés and the continuing expansion of existing cafés within the City of Minneapolis public right of way, the current Sidewalk Café Standards need to be more clearly defined. Public Works has been working with Regulatory Services to improve the café standards.

Attachment A presents the proposed process and criteria for café approvals. Highlights and major changes to this draft standard are:

- A minimum six (6) feet walkway shall be maintained between all obstructions and the proposed edge of café when the existing sidewalk is twelve (12) feet or less and a minimum of eight (8) feet shall be maintained between all obstructions and the proposed edge of café when existing sidewalk is wider than twelve (12) feet.
- This six (6) or eight (8) foot area of unobstructed walkway extends for the length of the entire block. The City may approve Sidewalk Cafés with a walkway standard less than the above mentioned standards based on ADA requirements and limited pedestrian volumes.
- Any new or existing sidewalk cafés must be positioned next to the building with the pedestrian walkway between the café and the curb. (This prevents café table service from interrupting pedestrian movements.)
- The City shall retain all rights to remove or alter any sidewalk café area at any time for public improvements or repairs to the public right of way or in the event of a major civic event.
- The annual term of sidewalk café permit shall be April 1st to March 31st of each year.
- Annual renewal shall be required for all sidewalk cafés.
- As of April 1, 2006 all sidewalk cafés will have to come into compliance with these new standards.
- All emergency entrances and exits must be clear of obstructions at all times and marked clearly on diagram and American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements shall be met.

An application process is used to obtain a sidewalk café permit. After submittal of a complete application, Public Works and Regulatory Services will inspect each café request and will determine whether all the provisions of the Ordinance and the proposed Sidewalk Café Standards are met.

Next Steps

Public Works and Regulatory Services will in:

- May/June 2005 - begin using the proposed standards immediately
- June/July 2005 - notify all existing sidewalk café holders of the new standards
- June/July 2005 - notify all business associations to gather their input on the new standards
- June/July 2005 - gather feedback from others who have interest in these new standards (Disability Committee, etc.)
- August/September 2005 - hold a public meeting to seek comments.
- October 2005 - Public Works and Regulatory Services will return to both the T&PW and PS&RS Committees with any updates to these proposed standards
- November/December 2005 – make any changes to standards and/or ordinances
- January 2006 – send out new standards for April 1 applications

Attachments:

Process and Criteria for Sidewalk Café Approvals
Application form