

Street Seats: A pilot program to bring more outdoor seating to Portland streets.

What is 'Street Seats?'

Street Seats is a pilot program that allows the Portland Bureau of Transportation to permit businesses to build a temporary platform in the on-street parking lane. The platform is the same height as the curb and extends the sidewalk space in order to add additional outdoor seating along the street.

Similar programs in San Francisco and New York City have proven successful and gotten Portlanders asking whether the same success can happen here. This summer, the pilot program will work with local restaurants to try our own version, which will be called "Street Seats."



Why is the Transportation Bureau introducing this pilot program?

The Transportation Bureau manages Portland's right of way, the public space in between buildings and parks that includes our streets, sidewalks, bikeways and paths. The right of way is public space for moving people and goods, but it's not limited to movement. The right of way is also a public space for gathering and meeting, as well as eating, drinking and vending. The mission of the Transportation Bureau is to be a community partner in shaping a livable city. This pilot program has the potential to fulfill our mission.

Currently, the Bureau manages the popular Sidewalk Café Program that allows Portlanders to eat or have a drink at a table outside a favorite restaurant. Street Seats aims to complement this work.

What will Street Seats look like?

Street Seats platforms can be designed and built from a variety of materials, often made from wood or concrete pavers in other cities. They extend only as far into the street as a parked car would and do not block traffic. Seats, tables, benches, potted plants and decorations have been installed in cities with similar programs. Some businesses have installed bike parking.

Who pays for and maintains the space?

Applicants are responsible for costs associated with the design, construction, installation, maintenance and removal of any Street Seats.

What is the pilot program's timeline?

The pilot program will allow a maximum of 15 initial locations permitted through December 31, 2012.

How will Street Seats be evaluated once the pilot ends?

The program will be evaluated based on impact to parking, program demand and neighborhood and business feedback. The evaluation will be used to determine next steps for the program and whether the permits are offered for summer 2013.

How much does the application and permit cost?

A Street Seats platform requires a \$459 encroachment permit and may include additional costs, such as compensation for lost parking meter revenue, a Café Seating permit and charges for street sign changes. Contact transportation staff for more accurate cost estimates based on a specific location.

The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with the design development, construction, installation, maintenance, and removal of the Street Seating extension. Also, the applicant is required to provide evidence of liability insurance.

The Street Seating application and permit costs have been developed for the purpose of the initial pilot project. Applicants should be aware that these fees are likely to change if a permanent program is put into place.

How do I get a permit to add Street Seats to my business?

The Portland Bureau of Transportation encourages businesses and organizations to participate in the pilot program for the remainder of 2012. Before submitting an application, a sponsoring business or organization must have the support of the property owner adjacent to the proposed Street Seats location.

To apply for a Street Seats permit, download and complete the Street Seats Application. Send the completed application to streetseats@portlandoregon.gov. Portland Bureau of Transportation staff will review the application and contact you about the next step in the process.

Who do I contact for more information?

Send any additional questions about this program to streetseats@portlandoregon.gov.