

City of Portland | Executive Department

Danielle P. West, *Interim City Manager*



To: Mayor Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council

From: Danielle P. West, Interim City Manager

Date: April 29, 2022

Re: Changes to Food Truck Operations

After receiving and considering significant public feedback regarding food truck activity along the Eastern Promenade roadway, and the various proposals developed by City staff to manage activity in this area, I am happy to share the chosen proposal with the City Council and members of the public.

As allowed in Sec. 19–23 of City Code, I plan to amend the Food Truck Rules to allow food trucks only within the middle parking lot on Cutter Street. This will mean that food trucks will no longer be allowed to operate on the Eastern Promenade roadway/esplanade. This option was favored by the vast majority of the public that provided public comment, and I believe it will be the most effective in balancing the priorities of residents, small business owners, and visitors to the Eastern Promenade.

Approximately ten (10) parking spaces will be made available at the Cutter Street lot for food truck operations. If interest in this space exceeds the number of parking spaces available, we will issue the permits by lottery. While these permits will be issued at no cost to food truck operators this year (since this is a pilot program), we may consider implementing a separate permit fee in future years.

Revision of the Food Truck Rules are underway, and we expect these rule changes to take effect June 15, 2022. The revisions will be considered a “pilot program,” and will be evaluated throughout the season in order to find opportunities to improve upon or revise it in 2023.

As you are aware, a renewed interest in outdoor dining during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant increase in food truck and customer activity on the Eastern Promenade. While the sense of community and fun this activity introduced was positive, it also resulted in excessive trash, root compaction of park trees and turf, excessive idling and generator use, loss of parking, noise, and other quality-of-life issues. It is our hope that these changes/this pilot program will help address some of these concerns.

We are grateful to the Council Committees and the Parks Commission that provided us with a forum to share and receive feedback on the food truck activity and our proposals, as well as to the hundreds of residents and business owners who worked with us to develop a fair, responsive solution.

Attachments:

[April 25, 2022 Council Communication](#)

[Food Truck Pilot Proposal](#)