



Department of Planning & Development
Planning Division

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TO: Downtown Coordinating Committee
FROM: Rebecca Cnare, Planning Division
DATE: June 19, 2014
SUBJECT: Street Furniture in the State Street Right-of-way Legistar ID #34351

Planning Staff would like the DCC to consider the following issues regarding State Street Flex Zone Areas:

A. Requests for Removal/Relocation of Street Furniture along State Street

Each year staff receives requests from new/existing State Street sidewalk cafes for removal/relocation of State Street amenities, such as bike racks, benches and planters. Historically, staff has tried to accommodate these requests to the extent possible while considering the quantity and spacing of these items along the street. However, with the growing number of cafes, outdoor vending and other activities along the street, it is becoming almost impossible to find alternative locations for street furniture.

In March 2013, a staff team, including Charlie Romines, Tom Skaife and Laura Bauer - Parks, Warren Hansen - Vending Oversight, Katie Crawley - Mayor's office and Rebecca Cnare and Bill Fruhling - Planning came together to try to create a general policy for staff to be consistent when dealing with such requests:

- Upon receipt of a sidewalk café application in a location where other street amenities are located, a reasonable effort shall be made by City Planning Staff and the Mall Concourse Maintenance Crew to adjust/relocate existing amenities within the existing space for the proposed cafe (or adjacent space if permissible by the adjacent business/property owner) to try to create the largest space possible for the new café. However, the wholesale removal of benches, bike racks, planters or trash/recyclable bins will not be accommodated, and the end result may be a smaller cafe than what was applied for by the applicant.

Over the last ten years, the State Street Oversight Committee (SSOC) has generally been the place where business/property owners could appeal decisions made by staff. This "appeals process" was informal, and was once overruled by the Mayor's Office regarding some benches on the 500 block. Now that the SSOC is dissolving, this role can be undertaken by the Downtown Coordinating Committee as part of their core mission, as described in their newly refocused ordinance.

Potential Changes to Vending Ordinance language:

If the Downtown Coordinating Committee agrees with the following, City Staff will work with Vending Oversight Staff and the City Attorney's Office on proposing ordinance language to be reviewed through the normal ordinance review process and discussed at an upcoming DCC Meeting.

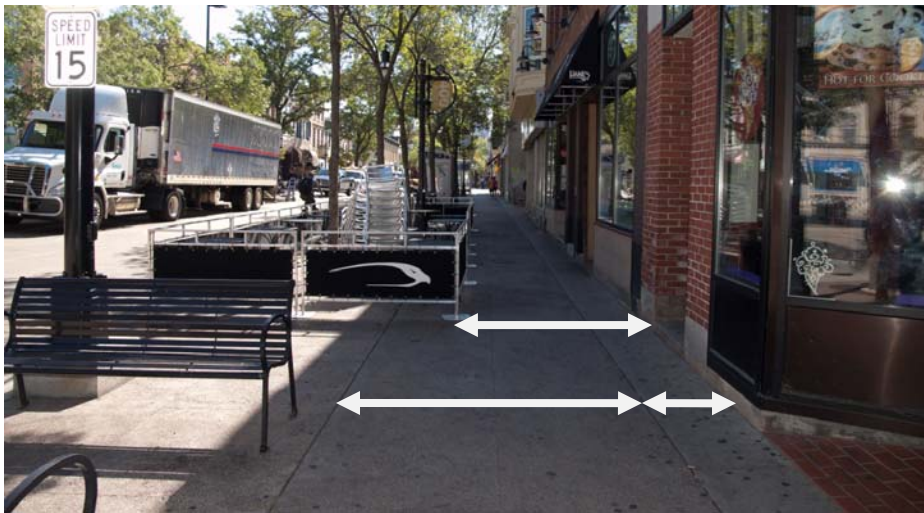
- **Add the staff policy language regarding removal/relocation of street furniture as described above**
- **Consider a more formal appeals process to provide businesses with a venue to present their case to the DCC, and for the DCC to offer an advisory opinion to the Mayor, who will make the final decision.**

B. Sidewalk Café Widths:

City staff has heard many concerns from both pedestrians, and the Mall Maintenance staff about the narrow width of sidewalk remaining after the installation of a sidewalk café. Warren Hansen, Vending Oversight Coordinator has been working with sidewalk café owners on using the concrete joint, (as seen below at an approximate distance of 8-feet from building face) as general guide for sidewalk café owners to use when setting up their cafes. However the official vending ordinance language allows the cafes to be within 6 feet of the building facade, so many café owners use all of the space as allowed by the current ordinance. Additionally the ordinance references the old sparkle poles as a line of demarcation, which should be updated now that the street has been reconstructed.

The City’s Mall Maintenance staff has difficulty sweeping and maintaining the cleanliness of the street when cafes are set to the 6-foot line, and have additional difficulty with the café panels’ “feet” sticking even further into the sidewalk space.

At their May 2014 Meeting, The Vending Oversight Committee discussed these same issues, and directed staff to work on creating ordinance language to consider utilizing the concrete joint as a new line of demarcation for all sidewalk cafes.



Potential Changes to Vending Ordinance language:

- Consider changes to sidewalk café widths to better accommodate pedestrian activity. This could be accomplished by using an exact measurement, such as eight-ten feet, instead of the current six feet, or by using the concrete joint line as a demarcation as discussed by the vending Oversight committee.

**6/19/2014 Appendix:
State Street Flex Zone Amenity Data**

- State Street: There are 182 Bike Spaces and 63 benches (-10 benches from original plans.) Even at these numbers, bike racks are currently over loaded.
- Capitol Square: 97 Bike spaces and 38 Benches
- Existing State Street Amenities and Ground floor Uses (summer of 2013 data):

Block N/S	Ground Floor Uses				Public Right-of-way Amenities						
	Rest. / Bar	Rest. / Bar w/ cafe	Retail / Service	Retail / Service w/ vend.	Bike Spaces (Side sts)	Benches	Trash / Rec. Bins	Planter tubs	Kiosks Map & Posting	Bus Shelter	
100 N	0	6	2	2	8 (+16)	8	1R 2T	5	0		
100 S	2	3	3	0	14 (+9)	4	2R 4T	7	0	1	
200 N	3	5	5	1	14	8	1R 2T	9	1M 1P	1	
200 S	0	0	1	0	(+39)	10	1R 3T	7	0		
300 N	0	3	5	2	10 (+26)	5	1R 2T	10	1M 1P	1	
300 S	1	3	3	2	16 (+3)	6	1R 2T	11	1P		
400 N	1	4	6	1	24 (+7)	5	2R 3T	4	1P		
400 S	4	2	4	1	10 (+10)	5	1R 2T	4	1M 1P	1	
500 N	3	6	8	2	17 (+25)	3	0?	6	1M 2P		
500 S	3	7	5	2	28 (+21)	4	2R 4T	5	1P		
600 N	2	2	8	0	22	2	2R 4T	2	1P	1	
600 S	3	2	8	0	19	3	1R 2T	2	1M 1P	1	
Total	21	41	58	13	182 (156)	63	15R 30T	72	5M 10P	6	

- State Street Business Mix: (unlike chart above, this data includes business just off State Street on Gilman, Henry, etc that contribute to the State Street District)

