



San Francisco Public Works
General – Director’s Office
City Hall, Room 348
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102
(415) 554-6920 www.SFPublicWorks.org

Public Works Order No: 203547

ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR PLATFORM PLACEMENT UPON SIDEWALK AND PARKING LANE FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE’S “SHARED SPACES” PROGRAM

I. **PURPOSE:** In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the City has taken numerous steps to reduce the impact of the virus. To mitigate the harm from the pandemic, the City issued a shelter-in-place order on March 16, 2020. The collective efforts of the City and surrounding counties in the State have had a positive impact on limiting the spread of the virus. As the City enters the next phase of recovery, consistent with the Public Health Orders and Directives, this Public Works Order provides guidelines for businesses to place platforms within sidewalks and parking lane space within the public right-of-way as part of the San Francisco COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force’s “Shared Spaces” Program.

II. **PLACEMENT OF PLATFORM REQUIRES AN APPROVED SHARED SPACES PERMIT**

Businesses seeking to place a platform within the public right-of-way must have an approved sidewalk and/or parking lane space permit under the “Shared Spaces” program.

III. **REQUIRED DETAILS FOR PLACEMENT OF PLATFORM**

1) Platform Specifications

- A) A minimum of 84-inches in height must remain clear of any obstructions along the sidewalk adjacent to the platform, platform entrance(s) and all areas on the platform. Obstructions may include but are not limited to tree branches and foliage, overhanging sign panels on posts, and/or the applicant’s addition of architectural elements to the platform.
- B) The cross slope on the platform surface shall not exceed 2.0% in any direction.
- C) If proposed on a street grade greater than 5.0%; additional design requirements and review may be required to make the platform accessible to the maximum extent technically feasible as defined in the California Building Code.
- D) Platforms shall be required to have soft hit posts and wheel stops in accordance with the requirements outlined in the [San Francisco Parklet Manual](#).
- E) Businesses must comply with all existing applicable parking and curb regulations as approved by San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) and shall not obstruct sidewalk area adjacent to bus stops, blue curbs (accessible parking), and/or white curbs (passenger loading zones). Platforms must not obstruct overhead lines.
- F) Platforms extending into adjacent business frontage(s) must have written consent as a part of their approved Shared Spaces permit.
- G) Permit holders are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of any platform structure. Sites should be kept free of debris and removable elements must be stored within the business after business hours.
- H) Threshold: Deck or platform must be flush with sidewalk and must not leave a gap greater than 1/2 inch, nor a vertical separation greater than 1/4 inch. One accessible entrance is required. If more than one entrance is provided, all shall be accessible and comply with the requirements of the California Building Code, Chapter 11B.

- I) The platform surface material shall be firm, stable and slip resistant.
- J) The platform shall have continuous physical boundary around the perimeter to provide a detectable separation between the pedestrian areas and roadway. The physical boundary height shall be a minimum of 42 inches. Taller boundary heights may be allowed if constructed with transparent materials. The maximum allowable gap in the boundary shall not exceed 12 inches.

2) Impacts on Public Facilities

- A) Platforms must allow for curbside drainage flow. A 6 inch x 6 inch minimum clear gutter space must be provided along the entire length of the proposed platform. The perimeter of the platform must be kept free of debris to ensure sufficient drainage occurs.
- B) Objects may not be bolted to the ground or affixed in a manner that penetrates the public roadway or any structure (including but not limited to: buildings, fire hydrants, street trees, streetlight or traffic poles, etc.)
- C) Platform structures shall not be allowed over a storm drain, manhole, public utility valve or other at-grade access point in the street or sidewalk.
- D) Platforms may not be poured concrete; mounted concrete pavers may be acceptable.
- E) No alterations may be made to the public sidewalk, including stickers or spray paint, other than social distancing markings. Any markings must be in accordance with [Public Works Order 203240](#).

3) Safety and Accessibility

- A) Platforms must allow pedestrians on either side of the street to maintain a visual connection to the street; as such continuous opaque walls shall not exceed 42 inches in height, transparent materials may be used to guard against wind in excess of 42 inches.
- B) An accessible path of travel must connect the sidewalk to the accessible entry, deck surface, wheelchair turning space and wheelchair resting space. The entrance should be at least 48 inches wide for accessibility.
- C) An accessible path of 48 inches in width must exist within the platform.
- D) To comply with Public Works Order 203,257 or its most current update, at least one accessible table is required. If an accessible table on a level surface (2% maximum slope in all directions) is provided in the sidewalk, an additional one is not required within the platform structure. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires 5% of seating for consumption of food and/or drink, but not less than one table, to be accessible.
- E) Platform shall support live load of 100 pounds per square foot. Platform boundary wall shall be designed to resist a load of 50 pounds per LF in any direction at a height of 42 inches above the platform surface. Additionally, the platform boundary wall shall be designed to resist a single concentrated load of 200 pounds applied in any direction at a height of 42 inches above the platform surface.
- F) In addition to these standards, businesses are also required to follow all other terms of their Shared Spaces permit in accordance with Public Works Order 203,257 or its most current update.

IV Platform Removal, Expiration and Revocability

- A) The temporary permits for both sidewalk and parking lane space issued under the Shared Spaces Program shall expire on December 31, 2020 unless otherwise extended by the City & County of San Francisco. Any platform must be removed immediately upon the expiration, revocation or cease of use pursuant to any Shared Spaces permit.

- B) The permit shall be revocable at the discretion of the Director of Public Works. A nonconforming structure may be grounds for revocation.
- C) A business may appeal a permit decision to the Director of the Department of Public Works within 15 calendar days of the decision. A Public Works Director's Hearing will be held for appeals of permit revocation.
- D) Businesses must maintain the quiet, safety, and cleanliness of the sidewalk and parking lane space and its adjacent area, in accordance with standards set forth in the [Public Works Good Neighbor Policy](#).

V Hold Harmless Clause:

- A) In consideration of the business taking advantage of sidewalk or parking lane space, the business owner promises and agrees to comply with all applicable regulations.
- B) In addition, the business operator agrees on its behalf and that of any successor or assignee to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify the City and County of San Francisco, including, without limitation, each of its commissions, departments, officers, agents and employees (collectively referred to as the "City") from and against and all losses, liabilities, expenses, actions, claims, demands, injuries, damages, fines, penalties, suits, costs or judgements including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and costs (collectively, "claims") of any kind allegedly arising directly or indirectly from (i) any act by, omission by, or negligence of, Assignee or its subcontractors, or the officers, agents or employees of either, while engaged in the practices authorized by this Order, (ii) any accident, damage, death, or injury to any contractor or subcontractor, or any officer, agent, or employee of either of them, while engaged in the performance of the practices authorized by this Order, (iii) any accident, injuries or damages to any person(s) or accident, damage or injury to any real or personal property, good will, in, upon or in any way allegedly connected with the practices authorized by this Order from any cause or claims arising at any time, and potentially falls within this indemnity provision, even if the allegations are or may be groundless, false or fraudulent, which obligations arises at the time such claim is tendered to business operator by the City and continues at all times thereafter. The business operator agrees that the indemnification obligations assumed under this Order shall survive expiration of the Order or completion of practices authorized by this order. The business operator shall assume all maintenance and liability associated with the items allowed to be placed in the public right-of-way under this Order.

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Yee, Ed

Yee, Ed

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Acting Bureau Manager

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DocuSigned by:

Patrick Rivera

Rivera, Patrick

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Acting Deputy Director and City Engineer

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DocuSigned by:

Alaric Degrafinried

Degrafinried, Alaric

Acting Director