



Food Truck License Text Amendment Staff Report

To: City of Dickinson Planning and Zoning Commissioners
 From: City of Dickinson Community Development Services
 Date: March 4, 2026
 Re: ZTA-006-2026 Section 50 – Food Truck License

APPLICANT

Name: City of Dickinson Community Development
 Address: 38 1st Street West
 City: Dickinson North Dakota 58601

Public Hearing	March 11, 2026	Planning and Zoning Commission
Public Hearing	March 24, 2026	City Commission
Final Consideration	April 7, 2026	City Commission

Community Development staff is requesting approval of text amendments to Section 50-75 – Commercial use of sidewalks, streets and public grounds restricted, and to Section 50-76 – Permitted uses of sidewalks, streets, or other public grounds, in Chapter 50-Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, of the Dickinson Municipal Code, to update the definitions and licensing procedures relating to mobile vendors and mobile food units.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends approval of these text amendments.

The proposed ordinance amending Chapter 50 addressing licensing mobile food units is included with this staff report.

STAFF ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

In March of 2025, at the request of the City Commission, Community Development staff reviewed the existing process for licensing food trucks in Dickinson. Community Development staff established a small task force including representatives from the Code Enforcement, Planning, Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments to review the existing ordinance, research how other communities permit or license food trucks, and address potential changes to the regulations and licensing process.

COMPATIBILITY, COMPLIANCE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Compatibility with the Municipal Code

The Dickinson Municipal Code defines a mobile vendor vehicle as *"a trailer which may be moved by towing with a vehicle or a self-contained mobile food truck which is designed and used for displaying, cooking, keeping or storing any food, beverages, merchandise or other articles for sale by a vendor. To the extent a mobile vendor vehicle is used for preparing, displaying, cooking, keeping or storing food or beverages, the mobile vendor vehicle must be inspected and approved by the Public Health Department/Environmental Health Division"*. The North Dakota Department of Health refers to mobile vendor vehicles as 'mobile food units', so City staff is proposing to update the mobile vendor vehicle definition to reflect that change. Additionally, City staff is looking to establish definitions for approved areas, ice cream trucks, and the mobile food truck corridor.

The proposed ordinance establishes approved areas and a mobile food unit corridor that allow for mobile food units to operate. A license will be required for any mobile food units operating in an approved area or within the mobile food unit corridor, but no prior notice to or approval by the City regarding operations will be required. The ordinance also licenses the continued operation of ice cream trucks along rights-of-way with a speed limit of 25mph, and allows for operations of mobile vendors that do not meet the definition of a mobile food unit or ice cream trucks without a license on private property within the Limited Commercial (LC), Community Commercial (CC), General Commercial (GC) and Public (P) zoning districts with the approval of the property owner.

Enforcement of the proposed ordinance would be handled cooperatively by code enforcement and the Dickinson Police Department. Code enforcement handles any infractions taking place on private property while the police department handles any unlicensed operations in the right-of-way.

PUBLIC INPUT AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Public Input: Community Development staff held a public engagement meeting on Monday, February 2nd, 2026, and reached out the current food truck operators in town for feedback. During this meeting, there were discussions over whether to allow overnight parking for food trucks involved in special events, and it was decided that a food truck can operate within 50 feet of the entrance to a business provided they have the written permission of the business owner.

Staff Recommendation: The City Development Team staff recommends **approval** of ZTA-006-2026.

MOTIONS:

*****Approval*****

*"I move the City of Dickinson Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval of **ZTA-006-2026: The Food Truck License Text Amendment** as being consistent with the City of Dickinson Comprehensive Plan, as being compliant with the City of Dickinson Zoning Ordinance, and as being in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare "*

(AND) the following additional requirements (IF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS ANY ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE PROPOSED MOTION LANGUAGE):

1. _____;
2. _____.

*****Denial*****

*"I move the Dickinson Planning and Zoning Commission recommend denial of **ZTA-006-2026: The Food Truck License Text Amendment** as NOT being consistent with the City of Dickinson Comprehensive Plan, as not being compliant with the City of Dickinson Zoning Ordinance, and as being contrary to the interest of the public health, safety and welfare."*