



Mobile Food Venders

06/01/2026

Staff Presentation to the CD Committee

Allison Kirk, Associate Planner

Robert Thrall, Legal Assistant



Mobile Food Venders

- A mobile food unit, as defined by WAC 246-215-01115, is a readily movable food establishment that stores, prepares, packages, serves, and vends food directly to the consumer.
- These establishments may include food trucks, trailers, stands, carts, or similar operations placed upon public streets or privately owned land.

ISSUE: The SMC is currently silent regarding Mobile Food Vendors, despite a growing interest from vendors looking to operate within Snoqualmie.



Past Practice

The growing presence of mobile food vendors within the city has prompted staff to respond using the limited guidance currently provided by the municipal code. The department has authorized mobile food vendors through the following mechanisms:

- Temporary Use Permit (TUP): Allowed within zoning districts where food and beverage uses are permitted outright. A TUP is valid for up to 180 days.
- Right-of-Way (ROW) Permit: Authorized for operations utilizing public streets, sidewalks, or city-owned property. A ROW use permit is valid for a period of [X] days.



The Regulatory Need

Mobile Food Vendor regulations would allow the City to:

- **Health & Life Safety:** Ensure, before the start of business operations, local vendors comply with local, county, and state requirements (health code, fire code, labor and industries, business licensing)
- **Location:** Designate areas within the City where mobile vendors may operate (zoning districts, private property, ROW, City Property and Parks)
- **Time:** Establish timeframes for short- and long-term operations
- **Impacts:** Evaluate impacts to parking, lighting, waste management, wastewater and permanent food and beverage establishments.



Regulatory Mechanisms

Within the Snoqualmie Municipal Code, there are several areas where mobile food vendor regulations could be integrated. Other jurisdictions within King County have updated their codes to address mobile food vendors across one or more of the following titles:

- Zoning Standards (**Title 17**)
- Business Licensing (**Title 5**)
- Fire Code (**Title 15**)
- Permit Processing (**Title 14**)



Discussion and Next Steps

Staff is requesting guidance regarding whether to **develop and implement** formal regulations for mobile food vendors.

Next Steps:

- **Option 1:** Motion to refer this matter to the Planning Commission for further study and recommendation.
- **Option 2:** Motion to table the discussion indefinitely or to a specific future meeting date.



Thank You

Questions and Discussion

Contact: enter email address

www.snoqualmiewa.gov