

CaféTO 2023 AND BEYOND

PROPOSED PROGRAM UPDATES

CaféTO is evolving from a temporary emergency response initiative to a permanent City program. City Council will discuss a staff report that recommends a number of proposed changes to the temporary pandemic-focused program that will make CaféTO a more financially sustainable, accessible, and attractive program for the future.

The successful future of CaféTO is dependent on four critical elements:

1

Returning to the requirement for all café operators to build a temporary accessible platform and fencing for their curb lane café permit area.

2

Aligning curb lane cafés with restaurant frontages, with some options for expansion.

3

Returning to requiring permit fees for the exclusive use of public space.

4

Continued City fee subsidy and ongoing operational and financial support for restaurants

TEMPORARY ACCESSIBLE PLATFORMS

Building a temporary platform that is level with the sidewalk achieves critical accessibility, aesthetic, and safety goals and was a pre-pandemic curb lane café requirement. Platforms are the only way to ensure that all Torontonians will be able to equitably access the program and is an existing Council-adopted requirement in the café bylaw.

BENEFITS:

- Ensures equitable program access for all
- Replaces orange pylons with more attractive fencing
- Increases safety around curb lane cafés, especially for cyclists
- Eliminates the need for temporary ramps

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE IN 2023:

- The CaféTO Property Improvement Program grant will match 50% of platform costs, including rentals, up to \$7,500
- Standard platform design templates will be available to download and customize

FEES

Since 2020, the City has absorbed all operational costs required to deliver the CaféTO program, and waived all application, permit and transfer fees. A subsidized fee model is proposed in recognition of the transformative effect CaféTO has had on city vibrancy while respecting operational costs, which were \$5.6 Million in 2022.

PROPOSED CAFÉTO FEES REPRESENT:

- Partial cost-recovery for operating the curb lane café program
- 50-70% reduction of curb lane fees that were approved by Council in 2019
- Eliminating higher fees for downtown locations, meaning all cafés city-wide will have the same fee
- Industry consultation on appropriate fees for commercial use of public property

NEXT STEPS

Executive Committee will discuss the CaféTO 2023 and Beyond staff report on January 31, 2023. City Council will vote on the proposed changes at its meeting of February 7-9, 2023.

CURB LANE CAFÉ ALIGNMENT

Feedback received from restaurant and bar owner/operators and other businesses indicated a need to reassess how curb lane café space is assigned now that indoor dining capacity has fully returned. As a result, curb lane cafés will be aligned with the frontage of the associated restaurant.

BENEFITS:

- Returning to other curbside uses like parking, loading and waste collection
- Provides a consistent and predictable understanding for café operators and their neighbours of available café space

A new, two-year CaféTO Curb Lane Pilot Program in partnership with local BIAs will allow for expanded café lengths where safety and accessibility criteria can be met.

OUTDOOR PATIOS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The Temporary Use By-law allowing for expanded outdoor dining options on private property expires December 31, 2023. City Planning will present recommended zoning by-law amendments by Q3 2023.

FEES

Sidewalk Cafés (per m ²)	\$ 44.14
Curb Lane Cafés (per m ²)	\$ 132.42
One-Time Application Fee for All Café Types	\$ 865.00

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Read the Staff Report [HERE](#)
- Submit written comments or request to speak at [Executive Committee](#)
- Watch [Executive Committee and City Council](#) live