

# **New Opportunities for Toronto's Street Food Vendors**



**City Council**  
April 2, 2014

**Tracey Cook**  
Executive Director  
**Municipal Licensing & Standards**

# Street Vending By-Law Review

## Objectives

- To evaluate the feasibility of allowing vendors to sell more diverse menus.
- To harmonize the regulatory framework across the City.
- To balance the competing uses of the public right of way.
- To ensure the healthy and safe preparation of the food.

## Principles

- Collaborative
- Consultative
- Balanced
- Flexible

# Street Food Working Group

Chaired by Municipal Licensing and Standards, and includes:

- Street Food Vendors Association
- Ontario Food Truck Association
- Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association
- Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas
- Toronto Public Health
- Transportation Services
- Economic Development and Culture
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation

# Street Food Vending Industry

- Food carts = 229 licensed; 136 permits
- Food trucks = 77 licensed; 14 permits
- Ice cream trucks = 131 licensed; 13 permits
- Coffee/catering trucks = 118 licensed

# Stakeholder Engagement

- Six public meetings across the City attended by over 100 people.
- Two public meetings to present concepts/options for discussion, attended by over 150 people.
- Additional meetings with Street Food Vendors Association, Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association, Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas, Toronto Food Policy Council and individual vendors.
- Staff received dozens of emails, phone calls and written submissions.
- Food Truck Pilot Program – online survey – 2200 respondents.
- **Street Food Working Group has met monthly since April 2013.**

# Other Municipalities



Hamilton



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**



City of Chicago



**BOSTON**



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



City of Seattle



# Other Municipalities

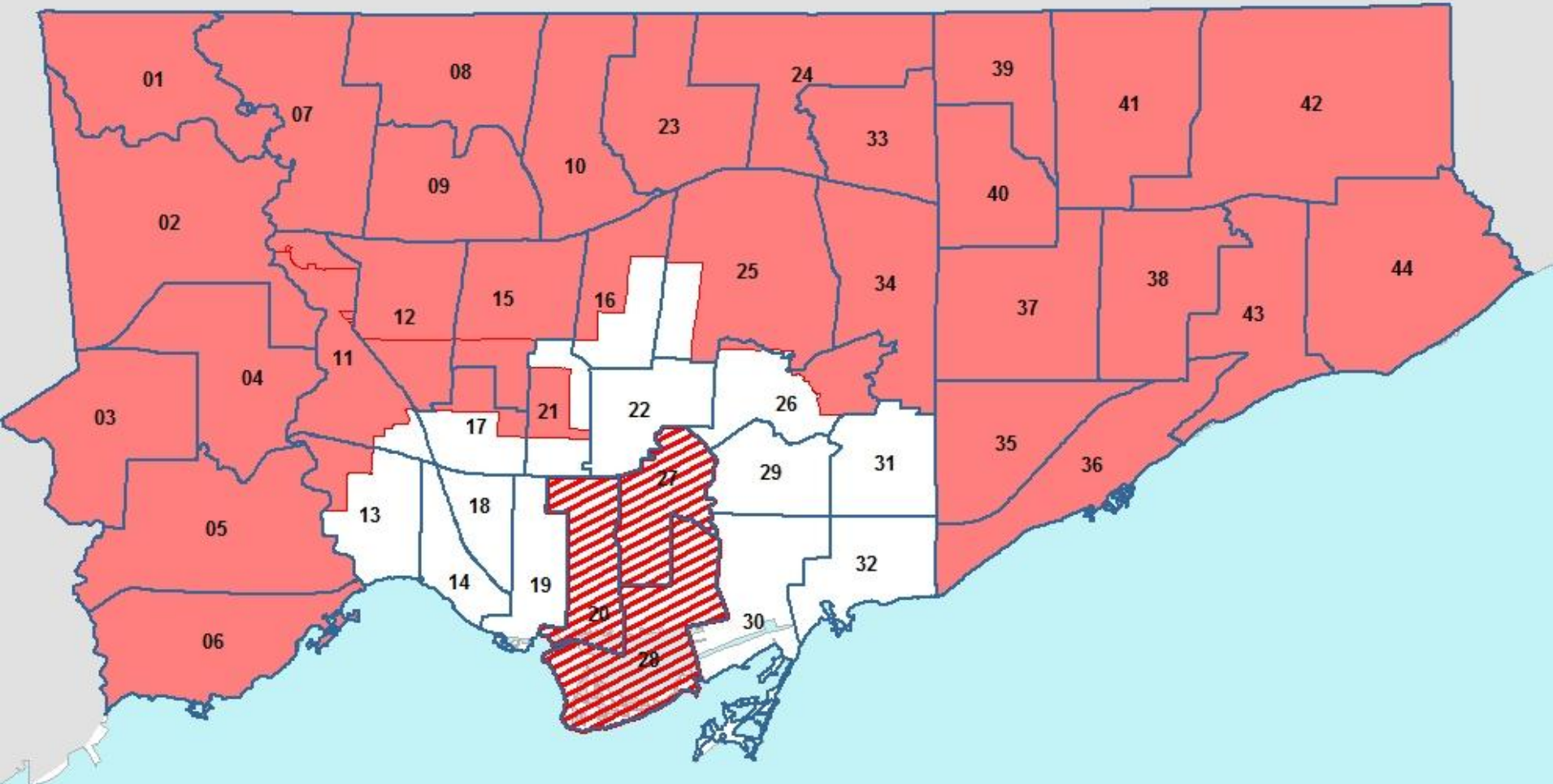
- Vending opportunities vary across jurisdictions.
- Mix of vending on private and public property.
- Right-of-way vending opportunities contain restrictions in all municipalities.
- Designated location permits for food trucks:
  - Boston, Ottawa, Seattle, San Francisco, New Orleans, Vancouver.
- Mobile permits for food trucks:
  - Calgary, Hamilton, Chicago, New York City.
- Some jurisdictions regulate menu choice:
  - Vancouver, Ottawa.
- Some jurisdictions limit the number of permits:
  - Boston, Vancouver, Ottawa.

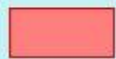

# New Opportunities for Stationary Food Carts on the Sidewalk

1. Enable designated spaces on sidewalks city-wide (maintain current permits in wards 20, 27 and 28).
2. Allow an additional 50% footprint, where available, to promote expanded menus.
3. Lower passable space requirements from 3.66m to 2.5m.
4. Eliminate BIA veto and replace with collaborative consultation and appeal process.
5. Eliminate requirement to have a business licence before applying for a permit.



# Current Restrictions on Stationary Food Carts on the Sidewalk



-  Areas where stationary food carts cannot operate on the sidewalk
-  Moratorium area



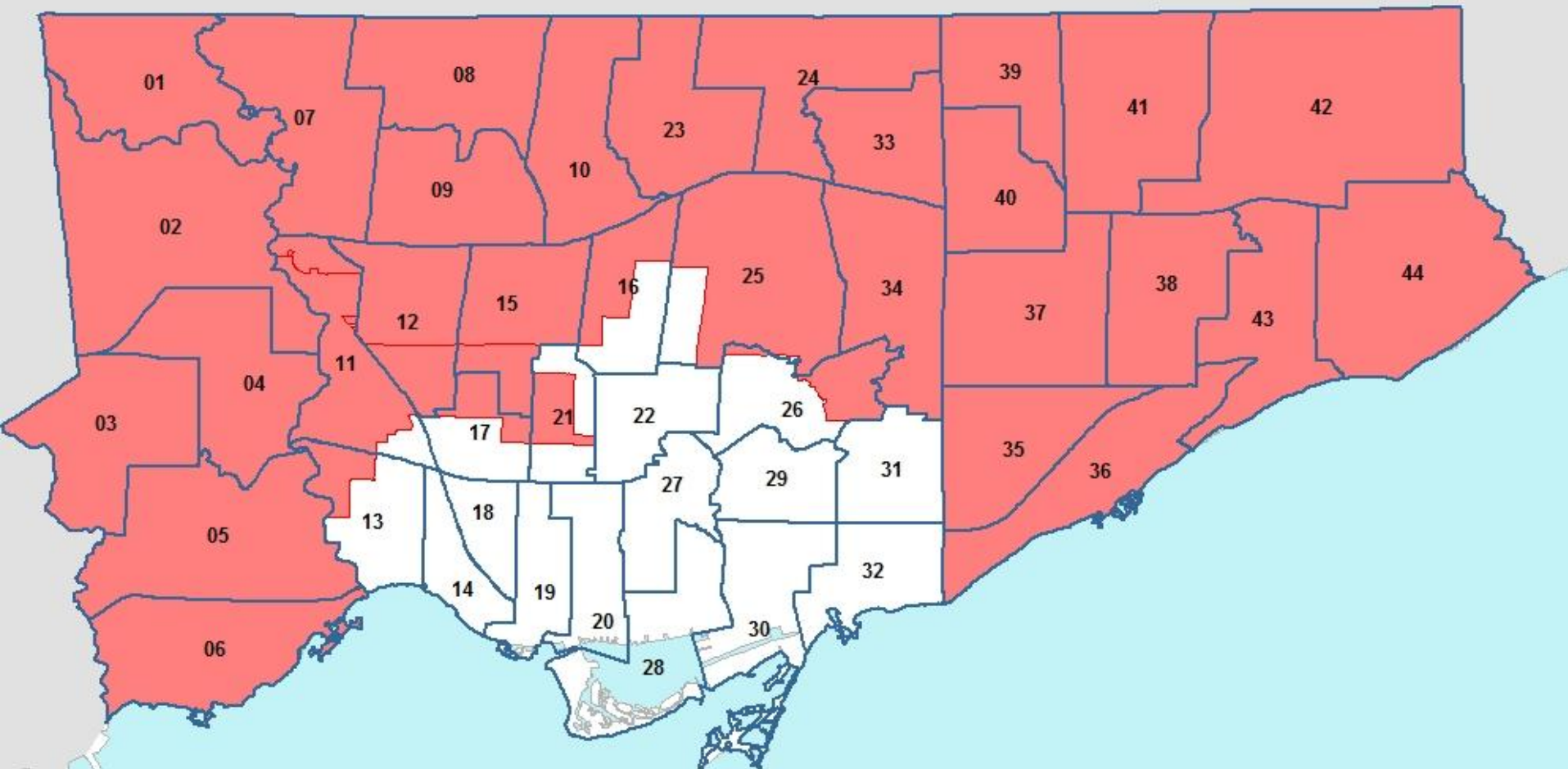
# Maintaining the Moratorium for Sidewalk Vending

- Moratorium was implemented in 2002, in response to a concentration of vendors in the downtown core.
- Currently, 64% of vendors are operating in the moratorium area.
- With the introduction of mobile vending and to balance the use of the City's right of way, staff recommend maintaining the moratorium on the sidewalk.
- The moratorium will be reviewed annually.

# New Opportunities for Ice Cream Trucks on the Road

1. Eliminate “10 minutes and move” requirement and permit mobile ice cream trucks to operate for up to 30 minutes on local and residential streets.
2. Allow mobile ice cream trucks to obtain a Mobile Food Vending Permit for operation on major/minor arterial roads.
3. Eliminate 30 metres proximity requirement from City parks and ferry docks.

# Current Restrictions on Ice Cream Trucks Operating on the Road



 Areas where ice cream trucks cannot operate on the road



# New Opportunities for Food Trucks Operating on the Road

- Food trucks may operate city-wide in Mobile Vending Zones:
  1. Pay and display stations on major and minor arterial roads.
    - **Currently there are 582 pay and display stations city-wide that are 50 metres from a restaurant.**
    - **Each station has an average of 7 parking spaces.**

# Mobile Vending Zones

## 2. Curb lane spaces without pay and display stations and lay bys:

- Many areas of the City may be conducive to vending, but do not have pay and display parking.
- To expand street food opportunities, the City will encourage vendors, BIAs and councillors to identify potential mobile vending zones.
- Upon receipt of an application, ML&S will notify businesses within 50 metres of the zone, the local BIA and Councillor.
- Objections to the designation of a Mobile Vending Zone in these curb lane locations, may be appealed to Community Council.

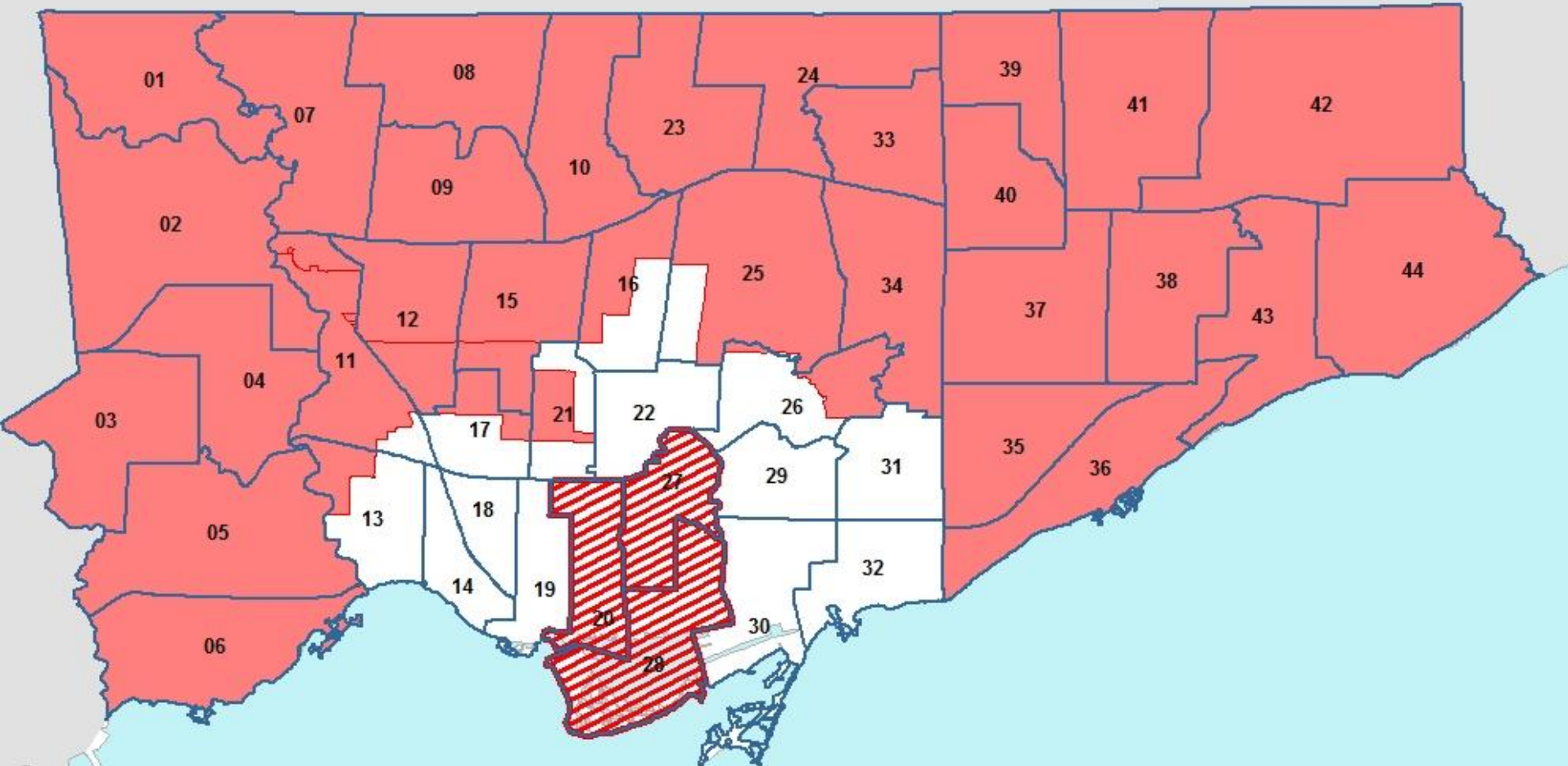




# Conditions of Mobile Vending

- Vendors will be permitted to operate in parking spaces, just like a passenger or commercial vehicle that would otherwise be occupying the space.
- Vendors may operate for a maximum of 5 hours, or according to parking and traffic regulations.
- Vendors must operate at least 50 linear metres from an open and operating restaurant.



# Current Restrictions on Food Trucks Operating on the Road



-  Areas where food trucks cannot operate on the road
-  Moratorium area





# Opportunities for Vendors in Licensed Commercial Parking Lots

- 58 licensed parking lots in CR and CRE zones.
- Eliminate the 10 minute time restriction in parking lots licensed by the City to enable vendors to operate in parking lots subject to the zoning bylaw.
- Vendors operating in licensed commercial parking lots will **not be** subject to the vending bylaw regulations including:
  - 50 metres from a restaurant
  - 5 hour time limit
- \* **Toronto Parking Authority planning to explore opportunities for vendors in off-street, surface level Green P lots, over the summer of 2014.**

# Opportunities for Vendors on Private Property

- Vendors may operate on private property, subject to the zoning by-law.



# Opportunities for Vendors on City-Run Property and Special Events

- Special events (i.e. Tasty Thursdays) – Economic, Development and Culture.
- City parks – Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
- City-run property – Facilities Management.
- Community festivals and special events – Taste of the Danforth, Taste of Lawrence.



# Curb Lane Vending Permits

## Current:

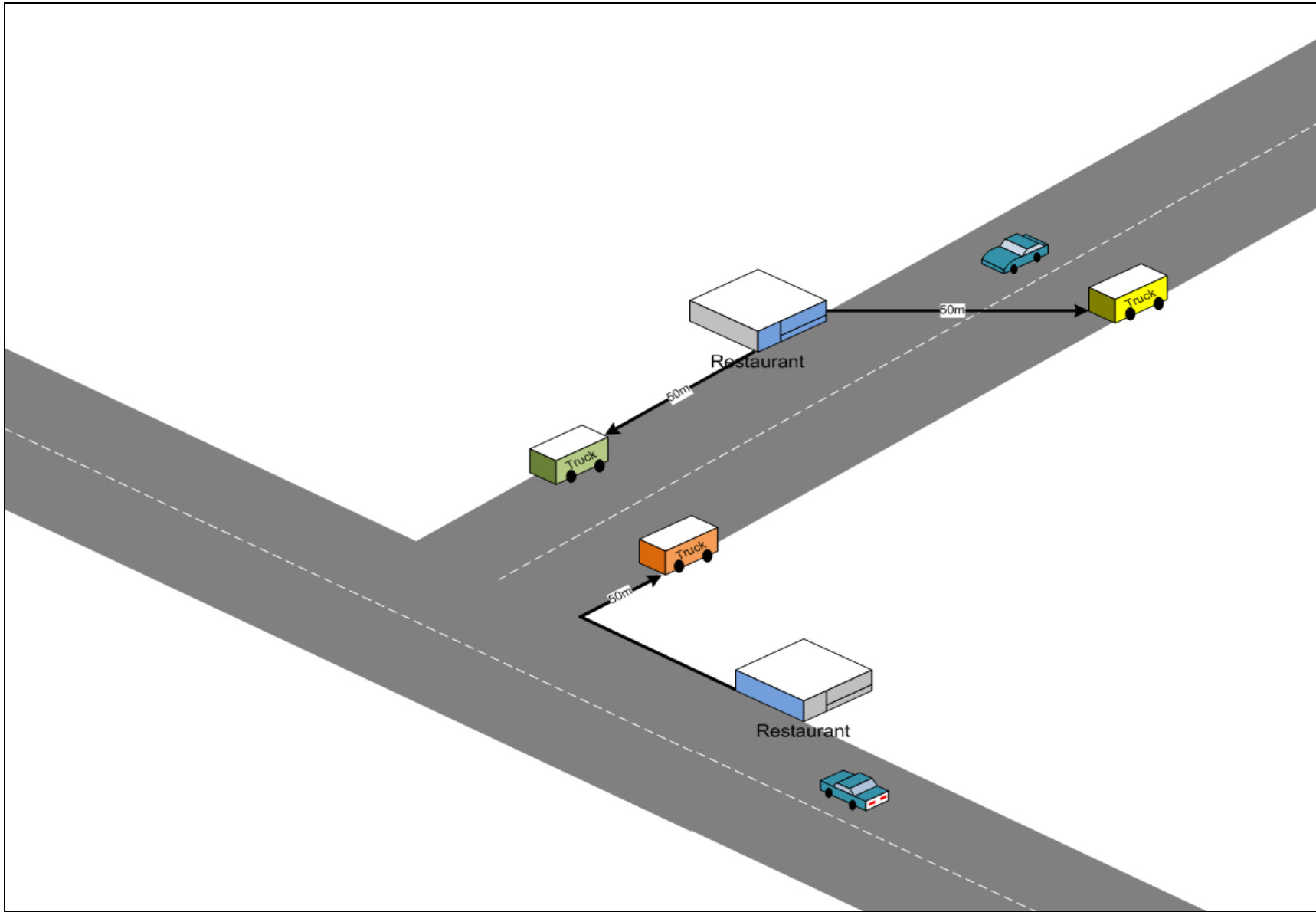
- There are 27 Curb Lane Vending Permits (14 food trucks; 13 ice cream trucks) renewed annually.
- They occupy City-designated and dedicated locations on the road.

## Proposed:

- Transition all food trucks to the new mobile vending model.
- Allow existing permit holders to continue operating under their current conditions until December 31, 2016, at which time they can transition to mobile vending, commercial parking lots, or private property.

# Amendments at Licensing and Standards Committee

- References to Restricted Zones & designating Restricted Zones were deleted and that the Executive Director, ML&S report to the Licensing and Standards Committee in one year on the need for restricted vending zones and on a process to designate and appeal restricted vending zones.
- When urgent issues arise concerning public nuisance or safety, City Council delegate to the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards the authority to prohibit vending in a particular area.
- Increase the amount of time food trucks may operate on a block, from 3 hours to 5 hours.
- Remove the limit on the number of Mobile Food Vending Permit holders on a block (staff proposed 2 trucks per block).
- Clarify that Mobile Food Vending Permit holders must operate a minimum of 50 linear metres from an open and operating restaurant.



# Summary

1. Expanded menu opportunities for food carts (June 2012).
2. Eliminated Refreshment Vehicle Assistant Licence (October 2013) – producing over \$72,000 savings for the industry.
3. Create a city-wide by-law that expands vending opportunities across the City on the right-of-way.
4. Enable vending in licensed commercial parking lots.
5. Provide efficient and collaborative permitting processes.
6. Eliminate BIA veto.