
Accessibility & CaféTO 2022

TAAC, November 15, 2021

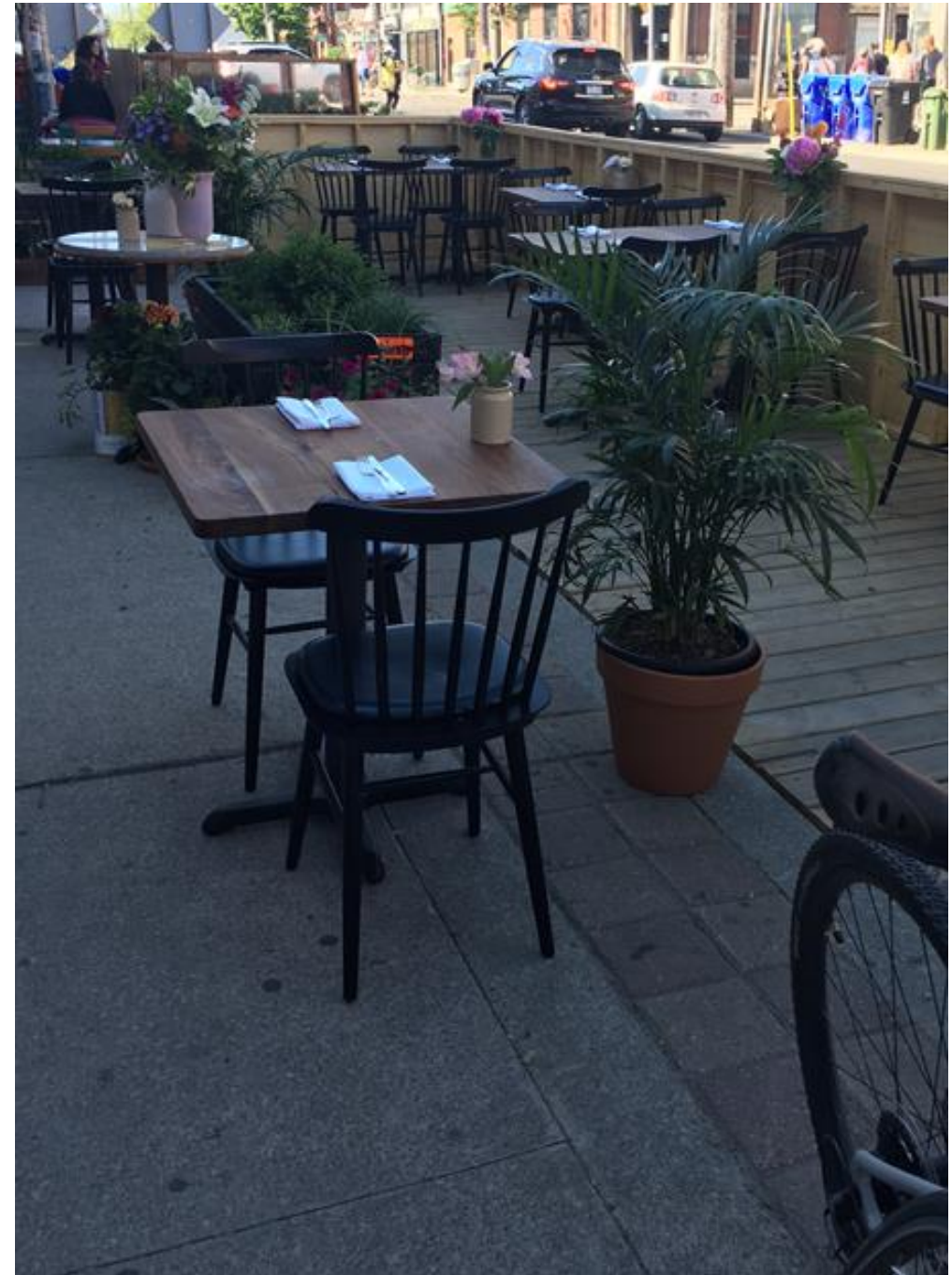
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CaféTO 2021

- **1213** Restaurants supported by CaféTO with space on the street or sidewalk in 2021, a **51%** increase in participation from 2020
- **940** Cafés in the Curb Lane, on the street
- **12 linear kilometres** of curb lane repurposed into dining space for Cafés
- **65** public parklets installed as part of CaféTO
- In a public survey with over 10,000 responses, **91%** of people said that they believe extended curb lane and sidewalk cafés should continue even after COVID-19 has ended



CaféTO 2021 – Accessibility Enhancements

- **35** platforms on curb lane cafés approved
- **800+** asphalt accessible ramps installed for curb lane cafés without a platform
- Accessible picnic tables purchased and installed in public parklets
- New section in CaféTO guidebook provides education to operators about improving accessibility in their cafe, including:
 - Accessible dining furniture options
 - Layout of café to allow easier access for people using mobility devices
 - Advertisement of accessible washrooms, where available



CaféTO 2021 – Accessibility Community Survey

In September 2021, staff launched a survey targeted to people who identify as having a disability, to give staff a better understanding of the barriers that CaféTO creates and guide program improvements to target those barriers

- **44** responses to this survey were received
- **62%** of respondents said they think sidewalk and curb lane cafés should continue to be permitted, even after the COVID-19 pandemic has ended
- **44%** of respondents indicated facing a barrier created by CaféTO installations that limited their ability to participate in CaféTO
- **49%** of respondents indicated facing a barrier created by CaféTO installations that limited their ability to travel on the street or sidewalk

Issues Identified in the Accessibility Community Survey

- **39%** of respondents said that CaféTO installations impacted their safety as they travelled on the sidewalk
- The most reported issues related to:
 - Obstructions in the sidewalk created by cafés
 - A-Frame signs
 - Lack of cane-detectability of sidewalk café materials
 - Lack of a straight and predictable path of travel
- Staff are using this feedback in the development of the 2022 CaféTO program and will continue to work to reduce barriers created by CaféTO installations

CaféTO 2022

- At its meeting of November 9th and 10th 2021, City Council authorized a continuation of the CaféTO program into 2022.
- Sidewalk cafés will be subject to full requirements under Chapter 742, while curb lane cafés will continue to be regulated by CaféTO guidelines.
- Staff continue to value ongoing consultation with TAAC on CaféTO guidelines prior to their release and are seeking feedback today on proposed updates.



Curb Lane Cafés – Platforms

- In 2022, the permission to build a platform on a curb lane café will remain
- Platforms built must be flush with the sidewalk and must have a level surface
- It is not possible to install a platform everywhere - access to utility infrastructure, the slope of a road and proximity to fire hydrants may impact the application for a platform.
- A new grant is available to CaféTO operators to defray the costs of building a platform to encourage uptake of platform installations



Curb Lane Cafés – Accessible Access

- Operators who do not install a platform on their curb lane café will be required to provide alternative accessible access into the café.
- Operators must purchase or install their own accessible ramp to provide access into the space.
- In 2020 and 2021, CaféTO installed asphalt ramps for CaféTO operators. This service will not be continued in 2022.
- City enforcement officials will be monitoring installations to ensure the accessible access requirement is met.



CaféTO – Sidewalk Cafés in 2022

- City Council adopted amendments to Chapter 742 to make permanent changes to the application process for sidewalk cafés. These amendments do not affect any technical regulations of sidewalk cafés pertaining to accessibility.
- In 2022, café operators will again be able to apply for permanent sidewalk café permits, which includes a requirement for a submission of a formal site plan. Site plans allow staff to thoroughly review pedestrian clearways, proposed deviations to the straight path of travel and ensure the sidewalk remains obstacle-free.
- Site plans will also help enforcement staff ensure that café operators are remaining within their permitted space and not obstructing the sidewalk.

Sidewalk Cafe Accessibility Considerations

- Chapter 742 contains many requirements to ensure cafés and sidewalks remain accessible including:
 - Cane-detectable delineation
 - Colour-contrast
 - Accessible entrances into the café, at least 1.0 metres wide
 - Minimum pedestrian clearway of 2.1 metres, increases to 2.5 metres on certain downtown streets
 - Straight path of pedestrian travel with only minor deviations permitted
 - Snow and ice clearing of the sidewalk adjacent to a café when operating in the winter

CaféTO Enforcement

- Enforcement of the regulations under both Chapter 742 and CaféTO remains a key tool in the reduction of accessibility barriers created by the program.
- Enforcement of CaféTO areas will continue to employ a two-pronged approach: complaint-driven investigations and proactive patrols of café areas.
- In 2021, over 300 complaints about right of way issues related to CaféTO were investigated. In most cases, compliance was achieved.
- Entering into the third year of CaféTO, the approach to responding to issues will shift from an education/consultation model to one focused on enforcement and providing a more timely response to complaints.



Feedback Opportunities

- There will be additional consultation opportunities on the permanent curb lane café program while the program is reviewed in 2022.
- Do you have any comments on the proposed change to accessibility requirements for CaféTO 2022?
- Are there any other changes to the program staff should consider as we continue to review and improve CaféTO?