

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <[Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)>

To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council](#)"

Date: 6/3/2025 11:38:04 AM

Subject: Memo - Patio Program Update

Attachments: Memo - Patio Program Update.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- Staff are conducting stakeholder engagement for draft proposed updates to the Patio Program in June.
- Engagement topics include:
  - Proposed updates to design guidelines, including accessibility requirements and more flexible design options for summer curbside patios;
  - Proposed revised fees (all patio types), as well as financial tools to support permit holders; and
  - Proposed VBBL updates to reduce requirements and streamline processes for permit holders.
- Recommended program updates will be brought to Council in Fall 2025. If approved, the first phase of updates will be rolled out for Summer 2026 patio season.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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## MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Patio Program Update

RTS #: 14718

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This memo provides an update on the Patio Program Review and upcoming stakeholder engagement in June 2025.

### Background

In September 2021, Council approved a permanent summer patio program that built on the learnings of the Temporary Expedited Patio Program (TEPP), and directed staff to conduct a review of the full Patio Program including design guidelines, accessibility policies, and permit fees.

Work-to-date on the Patio Program Review has included: internal improvements to streamline permitting processes and timelines for businesses, implemented in 2022 and 2023; two rounds of stakeholder engagement in late 2023 and early 2024; jurisdictional research; a consultant-supported accessibility audit; on-the ground learnings from Water St Pilot in 2024; and the development of draft recommended program updates.

### Current status of the Patio Program Review

Staff will present draft proposed program updates in a third round of stakeholder engagement sessions in June 2025. Engagement sessions will be held for local business improvement associations, the food and hospitality industry, existing patio permit holders, former patio permit

holders from the Temporary Expedited Patio Program (TEPP), and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC).

Engagement will focus on the first phase of the draft proposed program updates which, if approved, will be implemented in 2026 and apply mainly to summer curbside patios. These include:

- Updated design guidelines for summer curbside patios to provide more flexible design options;
- New accessibility requirements for curbside patios and business supports for implementation;
- Clarification of public realm management responsibilities for permit holders and the City, and a compliance framework to maintain a safe, accessible public realm;
- Tools to enable businesses to upgrade existing curbside patios to the new guidelines;
- Revised permit fee schedule (all patio types), together with financial tools to support businesses, including temporary reduced permit fees for 2026 per the 'Buy Local' motion;
- Related proposed Vancouver Building Bylaw (VBBL) updates to reduce requirements for businesses and enable 'added seats' for patios; and
- Streamlined application process and implementation timeline.

Future phases of the proposed program updates will include new guidelines for year-round curbside patios, updates for large sidewalk patios, BIA or partner-led 'patio rows', and other specialized patio types.

### **Next steps**

Staff will incorporate stakeholders' feedback in finalizing the recommended program updates, which will be brought to Council in Fall 2025, together with related recommended VBBL amendments. If approved by Council, bylaw amendments will be enacted in early 2026, and the first phase of Patio Program updates will be implemented for the Summer 2026 patio season.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering Services

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