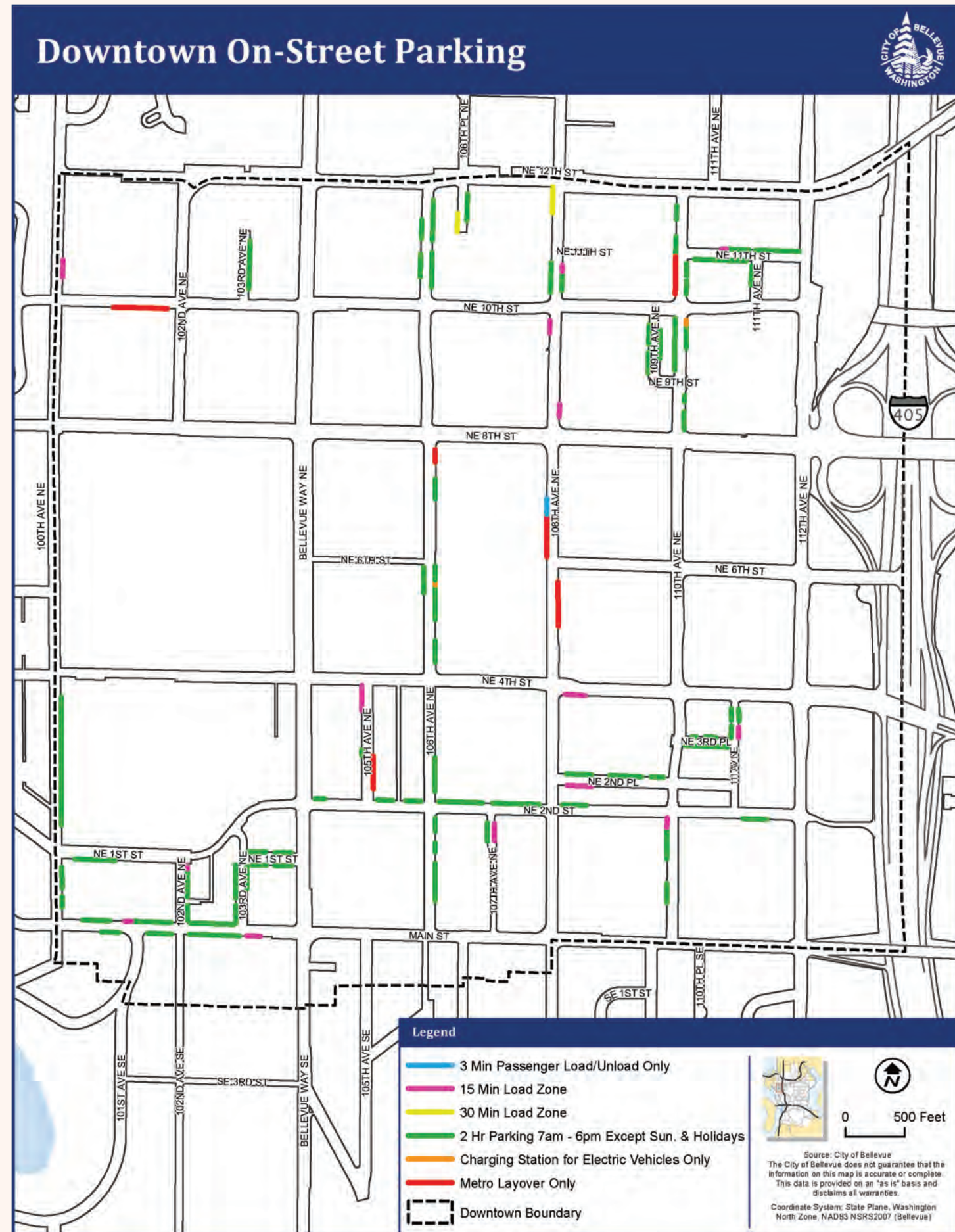




FOOD TRUCK PROGRAM

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A map of curb space parking availability in downtown Bellevue
 CITY OF BELLEVUE



Downtown Bellevue has recently experienced an upsurge in the presence of food trucks. The downtown area is a prime location for piloting a permitting process for food trucks to use the public right-of-way. NOLA LIU

THE CHALLENGE

Mobile food vending refers to selling food out of a portable vehicle or structure, such as a truck, cart, trailer, roadside kiosk, or stand. Food trucks do not require another vehicle to tow them and they offer greater flexibility to vendors who may wish to journey far and wide to serve a range of locales and communities. As the number of food trucks in Bellevue increases, so too does the number of locations hosting them; and public consciousness around the use of food trucks is also on the rise. However, currently, no formal process exists in Bellevue for food trucks to make use of curbside parking. This limits them to private properties. In partnership with the Department of Transportation, we conceived of a set of best practices and recommendations to support the City of Bellevue to create a permitting process for food trucks to use curbside parking in the public right-of-way. We considered other locations for food trucks to hold operations, indicating appropriate regulatory mechanisms and oversight to address key concerns of multiple key stakeholders.

OUR METHODS

We developed a conceptual framework of how food trucks fit into food systems at the neighborhood level. We carried out a literature review, conducted key informant interviews, and engaged in an informal site analysis. From our literature review, we gathered insights about how food trucks contribute to neighborhood livability and we learned how regulations can be implemented to permit food trucks' use of public right-of-ways. Key stakeholder interviews supplemented findings from our literature review. We analyzed interview responses to identify common themes and to capture valuable quotes. Our work has been influenced by a range of stakeholders perspectives, to include food truck operators, regulatory industries, food sustainability programs, and supportive business organizations. Combined, these methods inform the set of recommendations being developed for the City of Bellevue to consider as it creates a permitting process for food trucks.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We are formalizing a set of best practices and recommendations for the City of Bellevue. These will be organized around three overarching themes:

EQUITABLE PERMITTING

This section will include considerations of regulatory mechanisms and right-of-way permitting for food trucks and how regulations can streamline permitting and inspection processes for food truck operators.

WASTE REDUCTION

This section will examine different types of waste produced by food trucks and how waste can be managed.

FOOD RECOVERY

This section will examine the feasibility of a food recovery program to minimize the amount of waste produced by food trucks.



One recommendation includes exploring existing and future options to implement greater sustainable waste management practices such as using compostable packaging on food trucks. At "Food Truck Lobby Day," sample packaging items were displayed from Transitions2Earth, a company that provides a broad range of eco-friendly products to businesses such as food trucks. NOLA LIU

