



Board and Commission Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority;
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues, and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process. *Board members or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.*

Date Submitted to Staff Liaison:

Board/ Commission:

Submitted by: [Prashant Gattani

Study Issue Working Title:

Promoting local food truck business with unused city land

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

Local food trucks in the city may be operating in locations that pose safety risks, such as gas stations or directly on the road. Improperly parked or unsecured food trucks can increase the likelihood of accidents for passing drivers. Additionally, food trucks present fire hazards, especially when operating near gas stations, which is inherently unsafe. Crowds gathering around food trucks can also cause traffic congestion, further compromising road safety.

Currently, the city lacks proper infrastructure to support the safe operation of food trucks. These concerns have led me to propose a new initiative to create designated areas that promote both safety and health for food truck businesses and the community.

I propose utilizing unused city land to establish designated spaces for food truck businesses. These areas would be equipped with essential services such as gas, electricity, water, and waste management, ensuring that vendors have access to the necessary infrastructure. In return, the city could collect monthly fees from the food truck operators, generating a new source of revenue.

This initiative would not only provide a safer and more organized environment for food trucks but also create a vibrant food hub where people can enjoy a variety of cuisines in one location.

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments: [Staff Use Only]

Sunnyvale Municipal Code 5.26 – Vending, provides framework and regulations around food truck operations within the City, and outlines the specifics relative to code and purpose (SMC 5.26.010 – Purpose): (1) The primary purpose of the public streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and other public ways is for use by vehicular and pedestrian traffic; (2) To protect the public health and safety and ensure safe pedestrian and vehicular traffic, the city needs equitable, uniform vending regulations; (3) Unregulated vending, from pushcarts, vehicles, stands, or by persons contributes to traffic congestion and impedes the orderly movement of pedestrians and vehicles; (4) The unregulated use of congested streets and sidewalks by vendors make the streets and walkways unsafe for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and vendors; (5) Block 2 of the Downtown Specific Plan District is the city's restaurant and entertainment center, which has a high concentration of vehicular, pedestrian and commercial activity within those properties and the adjacent public right-of-way; and (6) Subject to appropriate standards for the public safety, health and welfare, the vending of food and other goods promotes the public interest by providing a needed service to underserved locations, activating underutilized spaces, complementing private and public properties, and promoting an attractive street environment.

Additionally, identifying City owned property that can be safely used, including added infrastructure needed, such as: portable restrooms, trash receptacles, cleaning services, power/utility, etc. may be a challenge and referred through the City's Real Property Administrator and the Department of Public Works. These locations/properties would also need ample parking with distance buffers from residents and other property adjacencies determined safe and respectful by the City. An alternative potential for this study or food truck program would be to partner with existing retail locations that may or may not have other food amenities or explore the option of using various parks throughout the city that have parking, restroom and other existing facility amenities to safely and respectfully accommodate food trucks and/or similar activities.