City of Cambridge Food Truck Pilot

Program Research & Outreach Overview (2017-2018)

Staff in CDD's economic development division spent over a year researching and developing the Food Truck Pilot, a process that included testing location and shift fees and engaging stakeholder groups (food truck operators, brick-and-mortar restaurants and other members of the community) in conversations about locations and scheduling.

The following timeline details past outreach items of note and upcoming opportunities to engage with the Food Truck Pilot process.

March 2017 - Begin research into food truck best practices in municipalities and identify possible vending sites in Cambridge

May 2017 - Broad feedback collected from 8 trucks via phone interviews. Sites and shift times adjusted.

June 2017 - Fees and process set after discussions with various City Departments.

August 2017 - In-person visits and presentations to neighborhood business associations. Feedback gathered. Detailed feedback collected from 20+ trucks via phone interviews. Site times adjusted.

September 2017- In-person visits to restaurants and cafes abutting locations. Additional in-person visits and phone calls to business associations (i.e. those not hosing sites such as Harvard Square). Pilot fees and process finalized.

October 2017 - Resident notices delivered to locations with high resident populations abutting location (e.g. Central Square/City Hall)

November 2017 - Info session for food truck operators (City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway)

January 2018 - People's Choice Poll opens and is slated to close mid-February 2018.

February 2018 - Info session for residents and food truck fans (Monday, February 5th, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, Economic Development Division Conference Room (4th Floor)

April 2018 - Pilot launches. Vending begins.

July 2018 - Mid-season feedback session (tentative location, 344 Broadway, City Hall Annex or Cambridge Public Library).

October 2018 - End-of-season feedback gathered via electronic and paper surveys.