

November 12, 2012

Food trucks are food for our community and economy. They offer District residents and workers popular choices and competition through a variety of great cuisine at great prices, adding to the vibrancy of downtown and creating hundreds of jobs.

These benefits could be lost if the current proposal is adopted. The proposal grants sweeping powers to unelected District Department of Transportation officials to decide where food trucks can and cannot serve customers. The proposal would restrict food trucks where there is less than 10 feet of "unobstructed" sidewalk -- without clearly defining what an "obstruction" is and threatening to limit food trucks in popular parts of downtown.

Relying on DDOT to create exceptions is an untenable expectation. Please reword the proposal to allow food trucks in the high traffic and highly popular areas where they already sell food. It'd be much easier and faster to alter the proposal now than to move forward without alterations and pass the buck on this issue. Do not make the fate of food trucks reliant on waivers that can be rescinded.

Please work with the Food Truck Association and all the members of our community to put forward food truck regulations that are clear, tailored to address specific needs and make common sense.

Sincerely,  
Stacey Grijalva