

Seattle Permits

— part of a multi-departmental City of Seattle series on getting a permit

Requesting a waiver from a Pavement Opening and Restoration Rule requirement

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The SDOT Pavement Opening and Restoration Rule (PORR) describes the requirements that permittees, contractors, and city crews shall meet when making or restoring openings within the right of way. SDOT Street Use Inspectors enforce the PORR on all work conducted under a Street Use permit.

References

In addition to the PORR, the Street Use inspector uses the following references when determining the extent and type of restoration to be completed:

- Pavement Opening and Restoration Rule, located at:
<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse/pavementopen.htm>
- City of Seattle Standard Specifications and Plans, located at:
http://www.seattle.gov/util/Engineering/Standard_Plans_&_Specs/index.asp
- Right-of-Way Improvements Manual located at:
<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rowmanual/default.htm>
- Approved project plans

Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide site-specific interpretations of the Pavement Opening and Restoration Rule:

- Preserve the public investment in the right-of-way.
- Maintain or restore pedestrian safety and ride quality.

Experience

Inspectors may call upon additional sources of expertise, including SDOT's Pavement Engineering and Management Section, SDOT Street Design Section, and Seattle Public Utility Materials Laboratory.

Waiving Specific Provisions of the Rule

SDOT may grant exceptions to the restoration requirements on a case by case basis, per Section 3.21 of the PORR. When a contractor or permittee requests a specific provision of the Rule to be waived, the contractor or permittee shall provide a written request to the Street Use Inspector or Team Lead prior to the start of work. The request shall include:

- The specific section of the rule to be waived,
- The reasons for the requested waiver,
- Site photos.

When the Inspector or Team Lead receives the written waiver request, the following process will be followed:

1. The inspector will visit the site within two (2) business days.
2. The inspector will review the waiver request.
3. If necessary, the inspector will call for technical input from Pavement Management, Street Design, or Materials Laboratory.
4. The inspector will grant or deny the waiver. Every effort will be made to reach a final decision on the waiver within five (5) business days.
5. The inspector will notify the permittee or contractor of the decision either in writing.
6. The inspector will send a copy of the waiver request, technical input received (if any), inspector's decision, and reasons for the

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decision to SDOT's Pavement Engineering and Management Section.

7. The Pavement Engineering and Management Section will keep a record of waivers and will periodically monitor the performance of pavement restorations made under such waivers.