



Expanding Vending Opportunities in the Golden Triangle

February 25, 2026

PACD Hearing & Action

Agenda

- Vending Policy in Pittsburgh
- Downtown Location Process
- Current Licenses
- Proposed Locations
- Wrap Up



Portland, Oregon

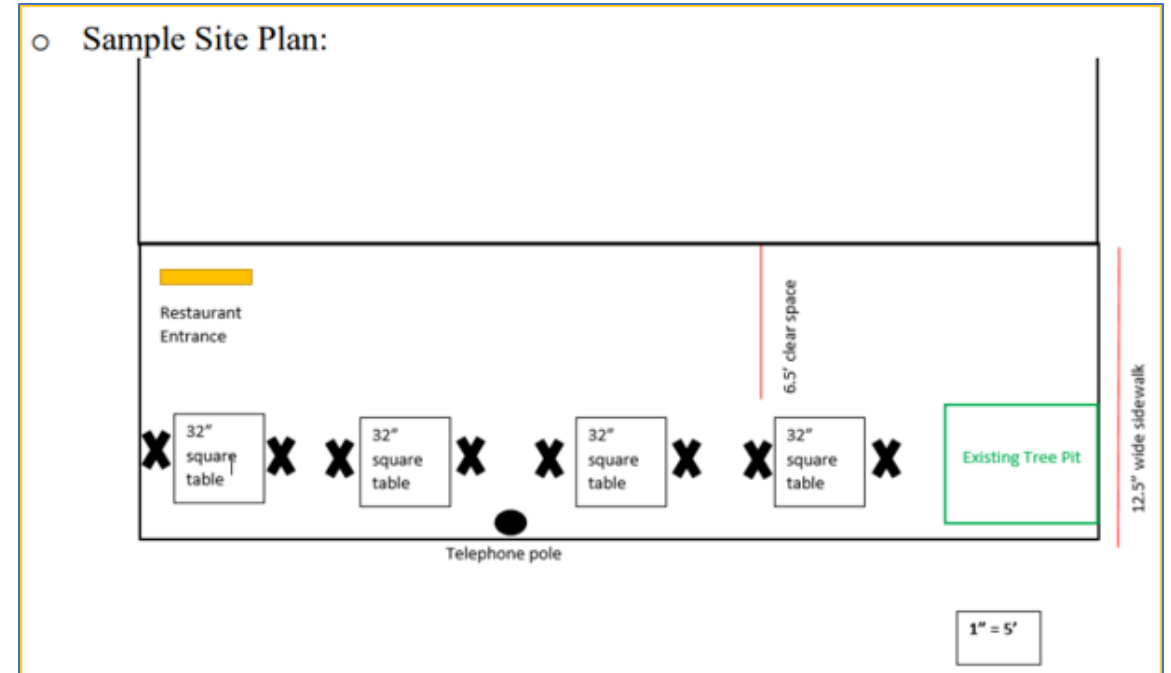
What is Vending?

Vending is selling goods, services, wares, or merchandise from a non-permanent structure such as a cart, truck, trailer, kiosk, or tent.



Vending Update Process

1. Meetings with peer cities
2. Focus groups
3. 1:1 Discussions
4. Internal collaboration
5. Best practices reading
6. DOMI Outdoor Dining & Retail License



Precedent: DOMI Outdoor Dining [Guidelines](#)

Vending Update Process

Phase 1: November 2024 – January 2025

- Conduct literature review and benchmarking
- Identify priorities and constraints for City departments

Phase 2: January – February 2025

- Gather Engage survey responses
- Hold internal and external focus groups

Phase 3: Spring-Summer 2025

- Draft whitepaper and refine recommendations
- Continued discussion and engagement
- Working with Mayor's Cabinet and City Council
- Planning Commission Briefing and Hearing & Action on zoning text amendment

Phase 4: Fall 2025

- **Legislative Process (Passed by City Council November 18)**
- **New program logistics and guidelines**

Previous regulatory framework

- **Chapter 719: PLI licenses** in the street and sidewalk
 - **"Mobile"** - uses (mostly) metered parking spots and moves at least once every four hours
 - **"Stationary"** - uses a specific licensed location on the street or sidewalk and does not need to move
- **Zoning Code: permits** on private property
 - As the main use on a lot through the Outdoor Retail Sales & Services, Non-Accessory use
 - As a secondary use through the Outdoor Retail Sales & Services, Accessory use

New 2025 Ordinances Passed November 18

Ordinance 34: Zoning Text Amendment

- Allows Outdoor Retail Sales & Services in mixed use, commercial, and industrial areas
- Allows this use in residential areas if paired with a use other than a home

Ordinance 35: Business Licensing Amendment

- Ties allowed locations in the street and sidewalk to Zoning
- Standard site condition criteria for use of the ROW
- Removed previous 4-hour limit for mobile vendors



Downtown Location Process

Additional Review Downtown

- Vendors will not need to go through extra review to use eligible locations in most of the city, but **new vending spots Downtown and in parks will go through the Public Art and Civic Design Commission.**
 - Vendors or organizations can also apply to manage a "group site" anywhere through this process.
 - This process includes a Development Activities Meeting, if there is an RCO.
- **PACD reviews for location suitability, impact on public realm, urban design, and other relevant criteria.**
- This review will occur in conjunction with DOMI and/or DPW's reviews of location suitability.
- Approved locations are made available to vendors, but this does not necessarily mean they will always be in use.
- Another DAM will be held for future applications from the City, organizations, or vendors.

Public Art and Civic Design Commission's Role: Outlined in the Revised Chapter 719 (2025)

719.10.c.i

Downtown. Within the boundaries of the Central Business District neighborhood, vendors may only operate in pre-approved locations for vending. Locations shall be approved for vending in accordance with Chapter 175, Public Art & Civic Design Commission.

719.10.c.iii

City parks. Within the boundaries of and on the Right-of-Way surrounding City parks, vendors may only operate in approved vending locations. These shall be established and updated in accordance with Chapter 175, Public Art & Civic Design Commission.

719.10.d

Group Vending Sites. The License Officer may authorize the use of a portion of the Right-of-Way for vending activity as a group vending site and modify or waive requirements of this ordinance and the rules and regulations. Group vending site locations shall be approved in accordance with Chapter 175, Public Art & Civic Design Commission.

Key changes for Downtown

Old Policy	New Policy
Ambiguity – "Are food trucks allowed everywhere or nowhere downtown?"	Clarity – intentionally selected locations for parking lane and sidewalk vending
Unclear rules and regulations	Clear rules that can be updated administratively
4-hour rule for mobile vendors but not time limit for stationary	No time limits, but mobile vendors must remove materials each day
Sidewalk Vending locations chosen 1 by 1 and legislated	Locations for both street and sidewalk approved either one at a time or in batches through the Public Art & Civic Design Commission
100 ft competition rule	150 ft competition rule

Leveraging vending as complementary to storefronts

- Legislation strikes a balance of promoting new entrepreneurship pathways and protecting existing brick-and-mortar establishments.
- Many goals are shared by both vendors and brick-and-mortars, including clear regulations, meaningful enforcement, and opportunities for growth.
- Revamped "competition rule" balances concerns
 - New exemptions
 - Distance increased from 100 ft to 150 ft
- Brick-and-mortar businesses have expressed interest in opening mobile operations, and mobile vendors can expand into storefronts.
- Food trucks and restaurants can be complementary: guests are often looking for a different experience and can bring more foot traffic overall.

Maintenance and Lifetime



- **Maintenance:** The City is generally responsible for managing the use of the locations, and vendors will be expected to keep the area clean and in accordance with vending rules and regulations.
- **Lifetime of the project:** these locations will be available for the foreseeable future, but DOMI could take them out of circulation if needed

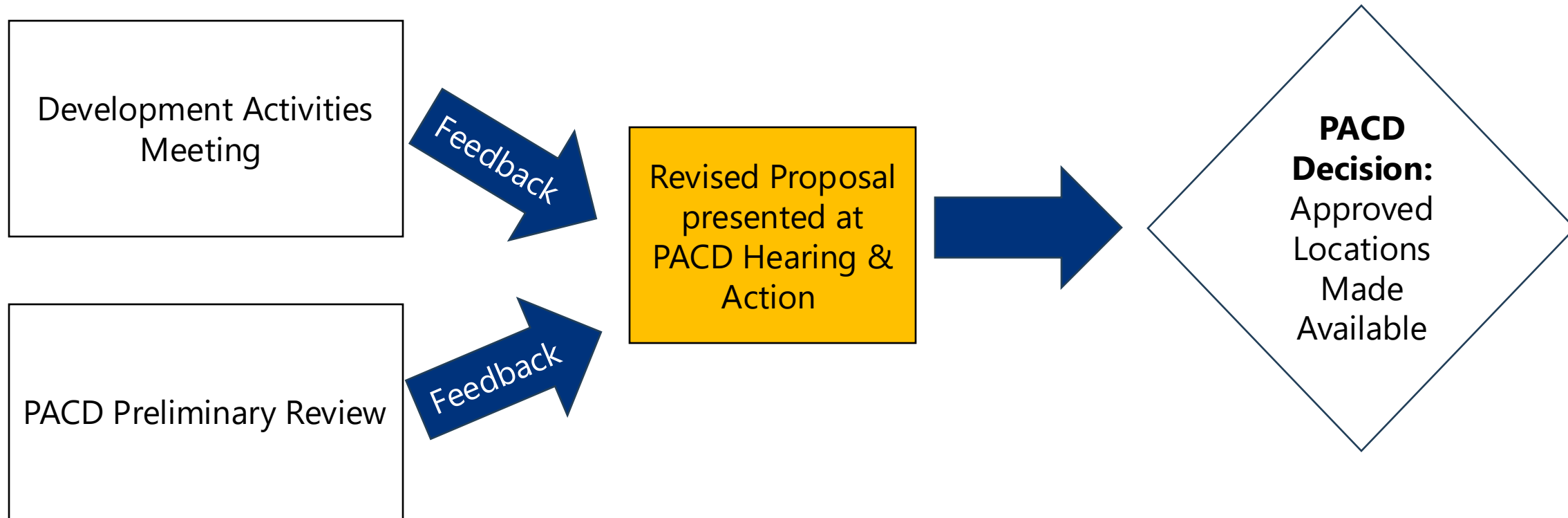
Long Term Benefits

- **Economic opportunity:** Business incubation, diversified sales opportunities
- **Placemaking:** More foot traffic to business districts, enhanced public realm
- **Operations:** More efficient use of City resources, additional license revenue

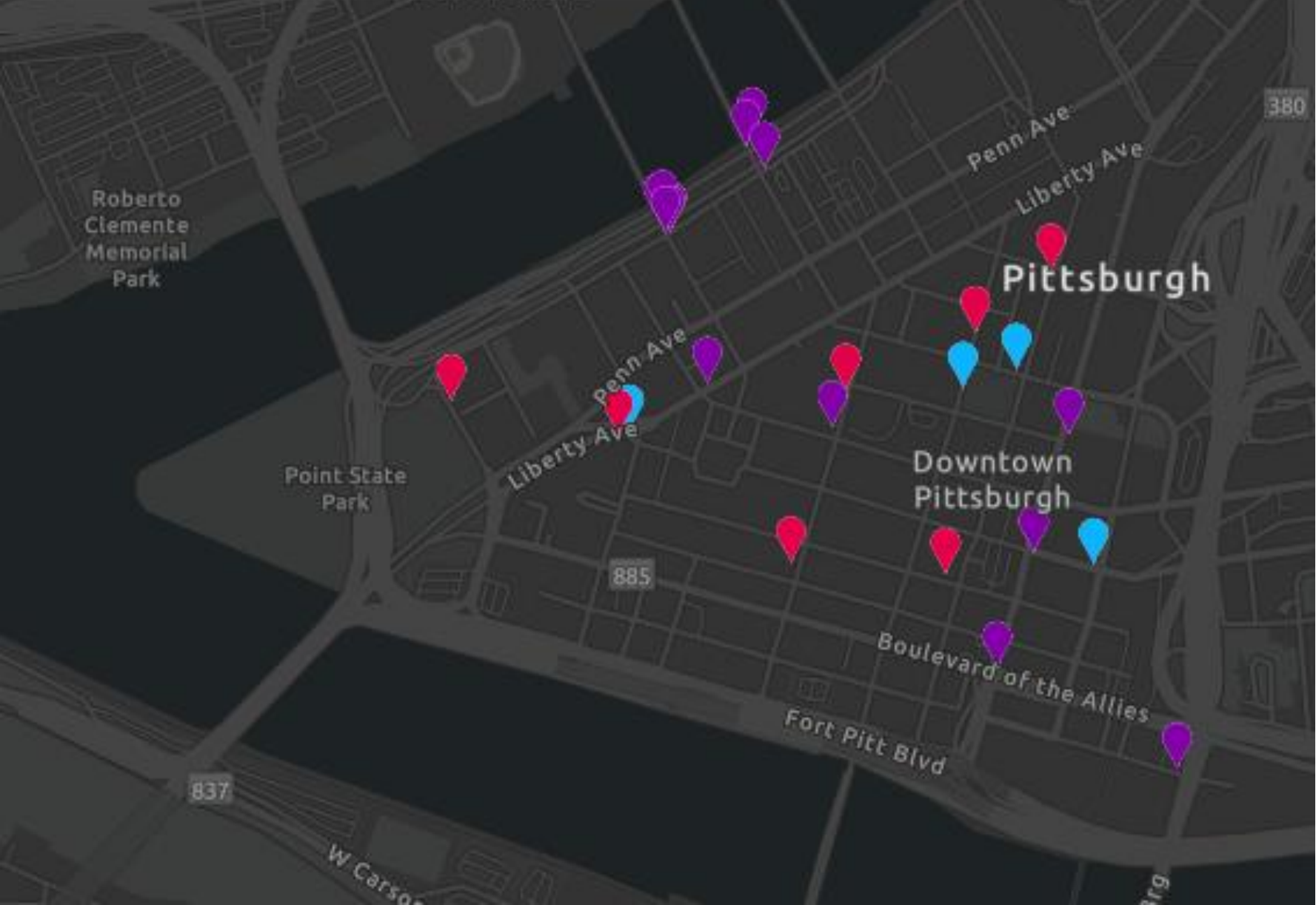


Today's meeting in the PACD Process

Based on today's discussion, locations can be adjusted, added to, or reduced. All feedback will be considered as the proposal is finalized for the public hearing.



Current and Proposed Vending Locations



Currently active vendors' licenses automatically carry over into the new program.

Active Licenses

New Locations

- Parking Lane
- Sidewalk

How were these locations determined?

- DOMI selected areas for vending in the parking lane and on the sidewalk considering the following:
 - Demand from vendors, as indicated by current and past licenses
 - Parking and loading demand and availability
 - Sidewalk width and furnishings
 - Proximity to nearby points of interest
 - Proximity to other vendors
- All selected locations meet the safety and accessibility criteria required for all vending locations

Accessibility and Traffic Safety

- All locations must meet the safety and accessibility criteria such as:
 - 20' from an intersection
 - Not blocking any fire hydrant, bus stop, etc.
 - Minimum pedestrian clear space
 - 4' minimum, or half of the sidewalk if sidewalk is wider than 10'
- Sidewalk locations can accommodate only small, non-motorized units, and parking spots can accommodate only trucks and trailers.

RCO Engagement & Feedback

- Development Activities Meeting January 8, 2026
- Discussion ahead of Development Activities Meeting
- Adjustments after DAM in response to feedback:
 - Added parking spots at Commonwealth Pl, Gateway Center Parking Lane, and Wood St & 3rd Ave
 - Removed Penn & Liberty, Wood St & Boulevard of the Allies, and Wood St & 4th Ave



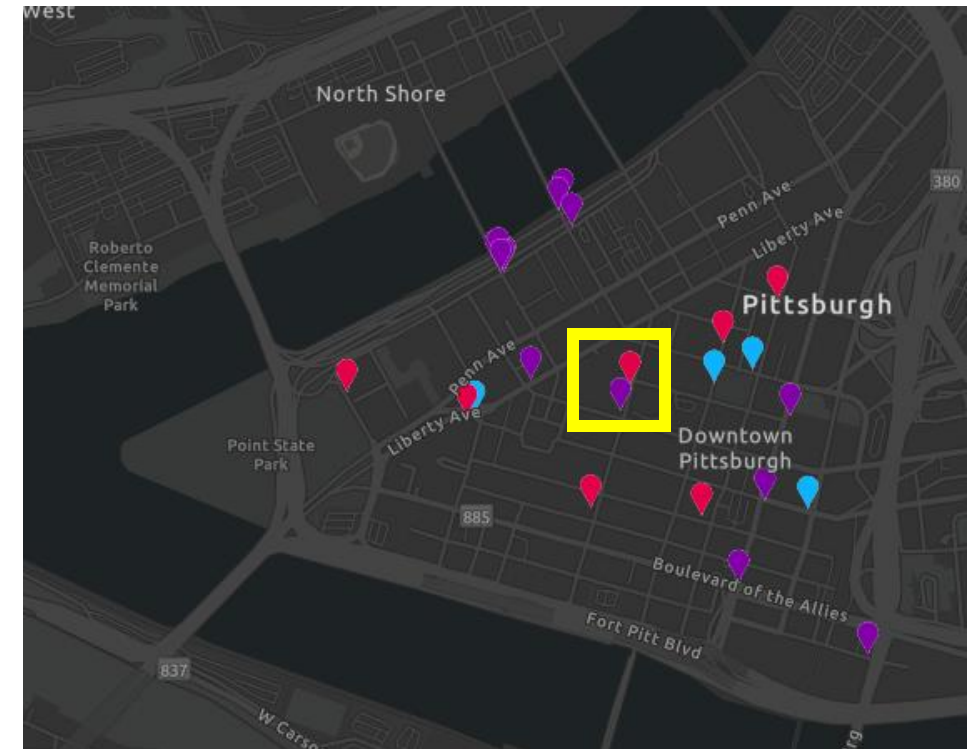
Locations Already in Use

Carried over to new program

Wood St & Fifth Ave



1 sidewalk vendor

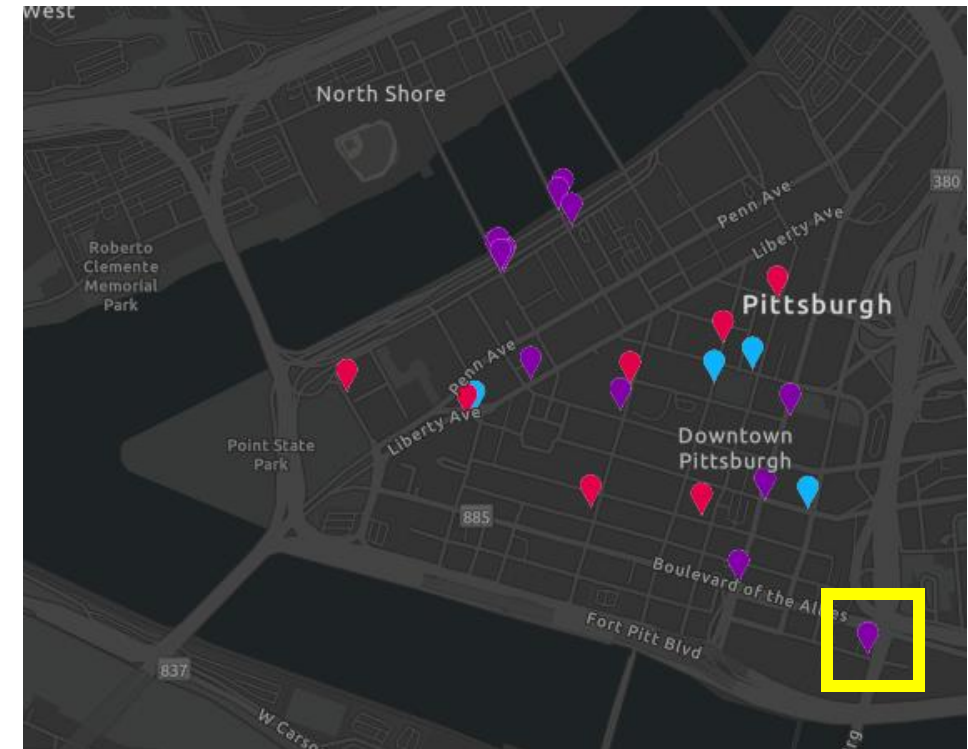


Existing License

First Ave & Municipal Court Dr



1 sidewalk vendor

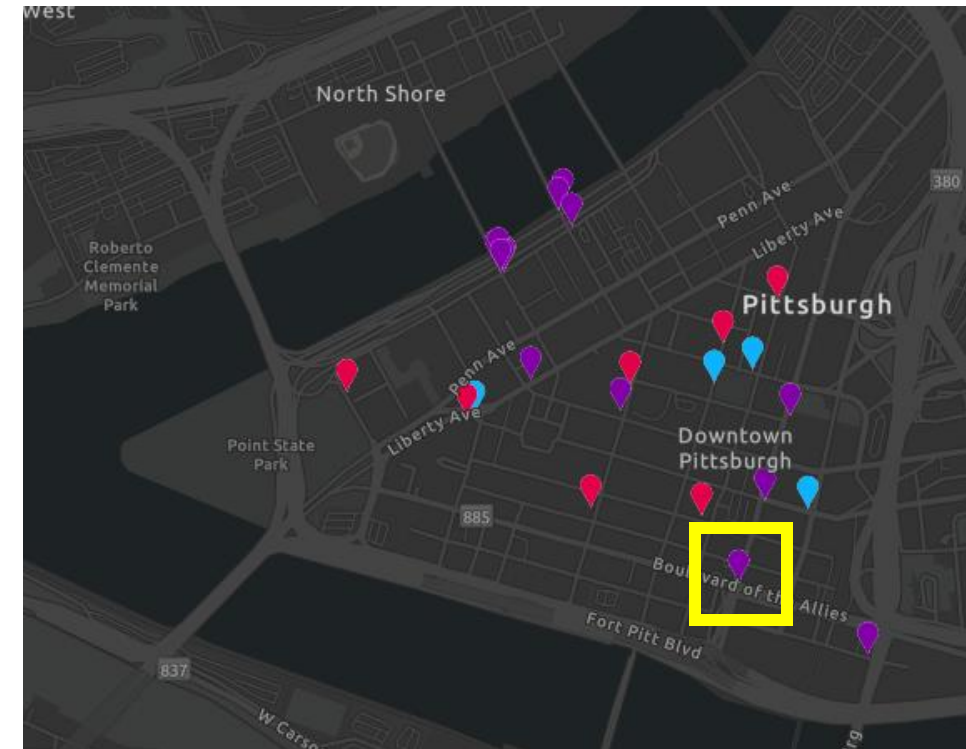


Existing License

Grant St & Second Ave



1 sidewalk vendor

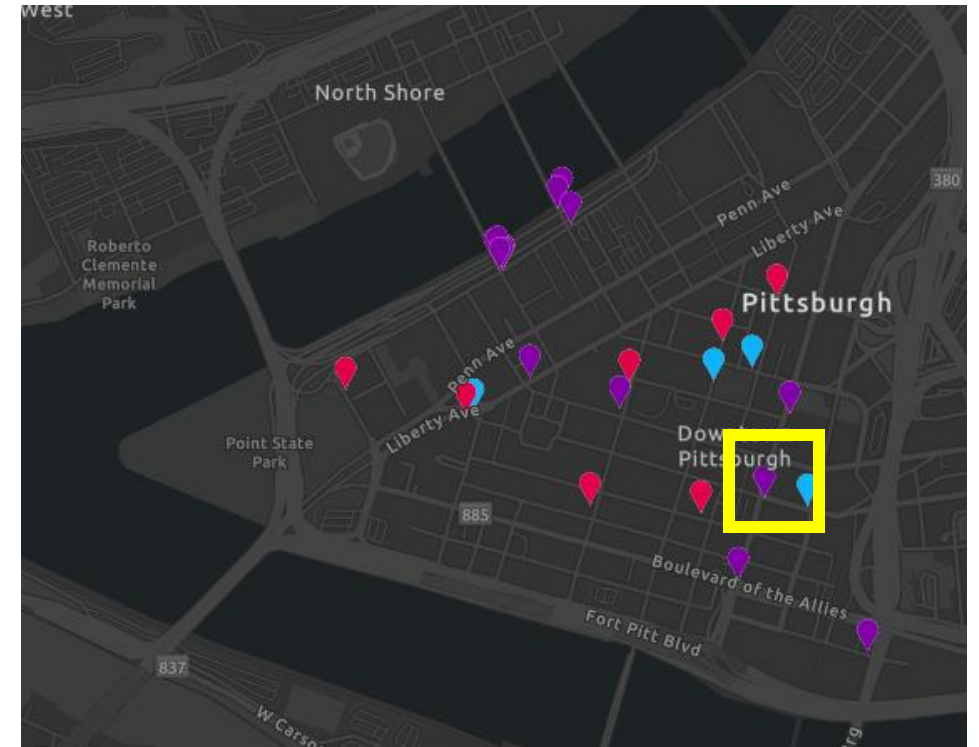


Existing License

Forbes Ave & Grant St



1 sidewalk vendor

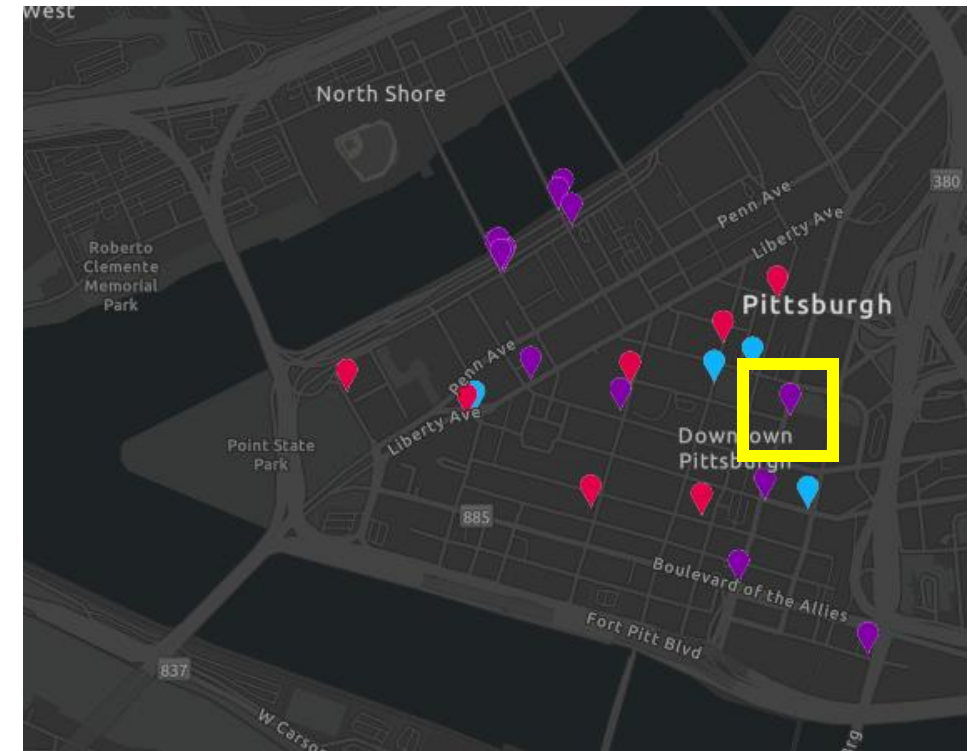


Existing License

Grant St & Oliver Ave



1 sidewalk vendor

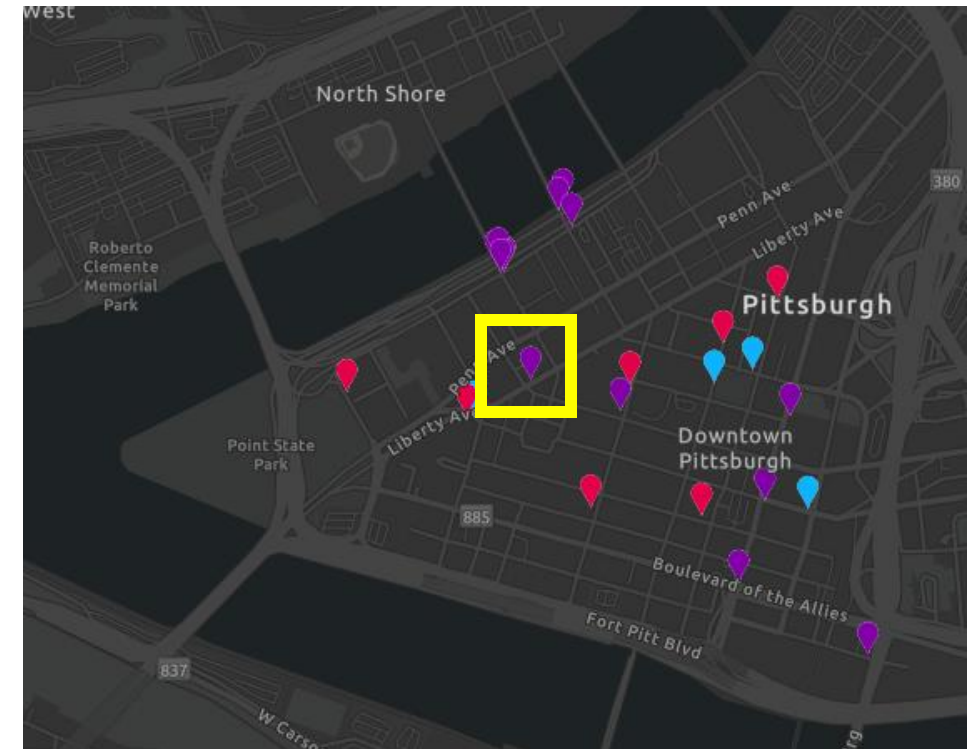


Existing License

Liberty Ave & Fifth Ave



1 sidewalk vendor

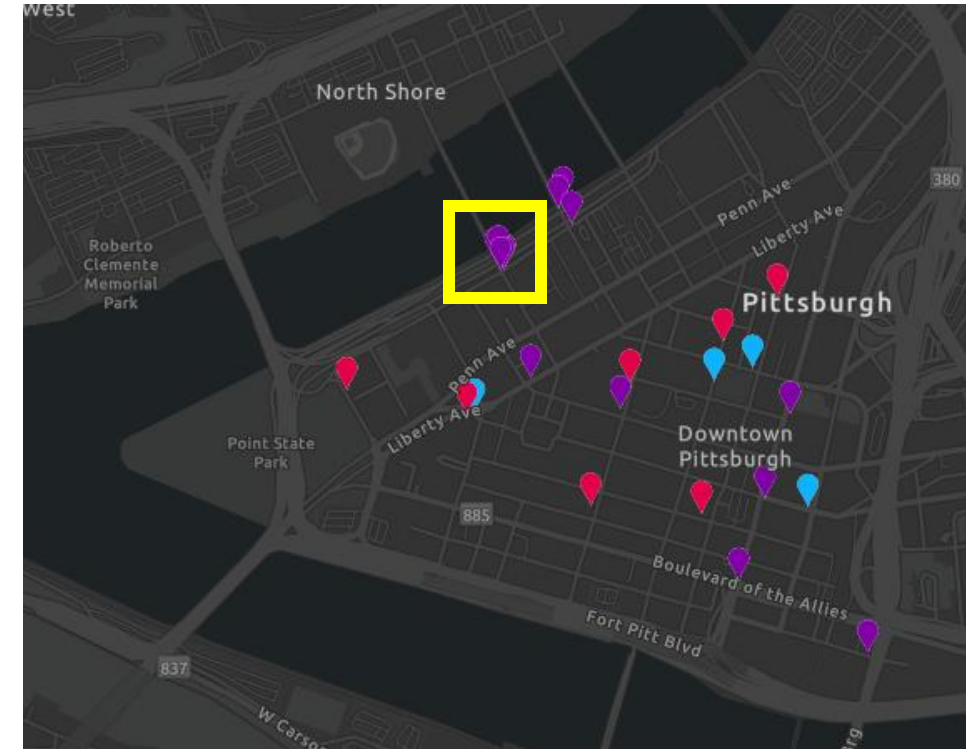


Existing License

Sixth St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (NE)



1 sidewalk vendor

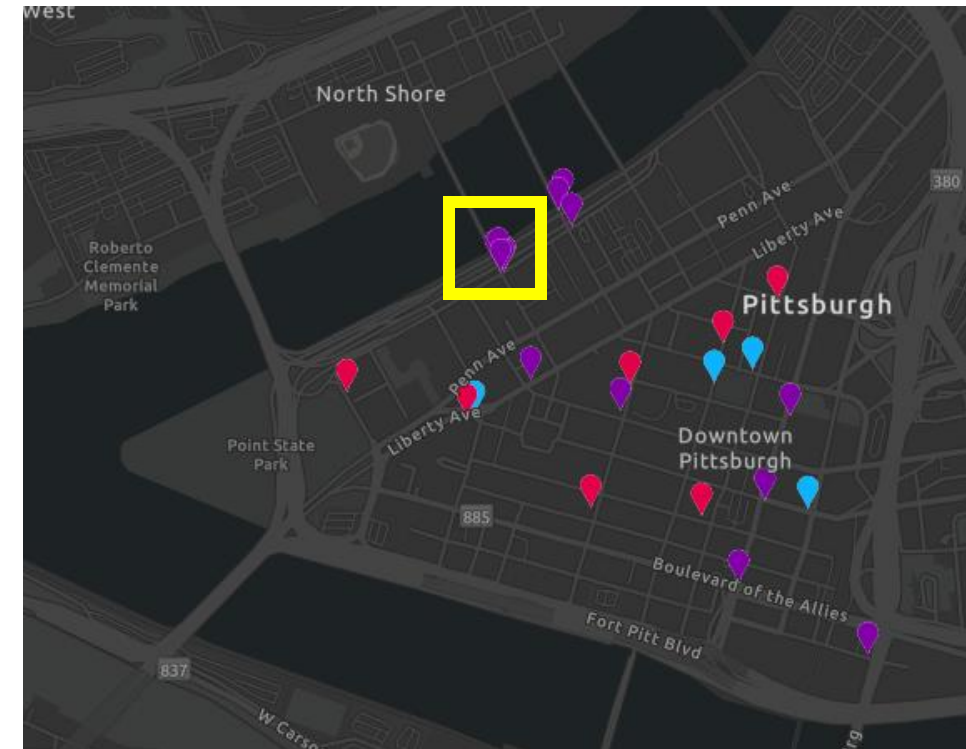


Existing License

Sixth St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (NW)



1 sidewalk vendor

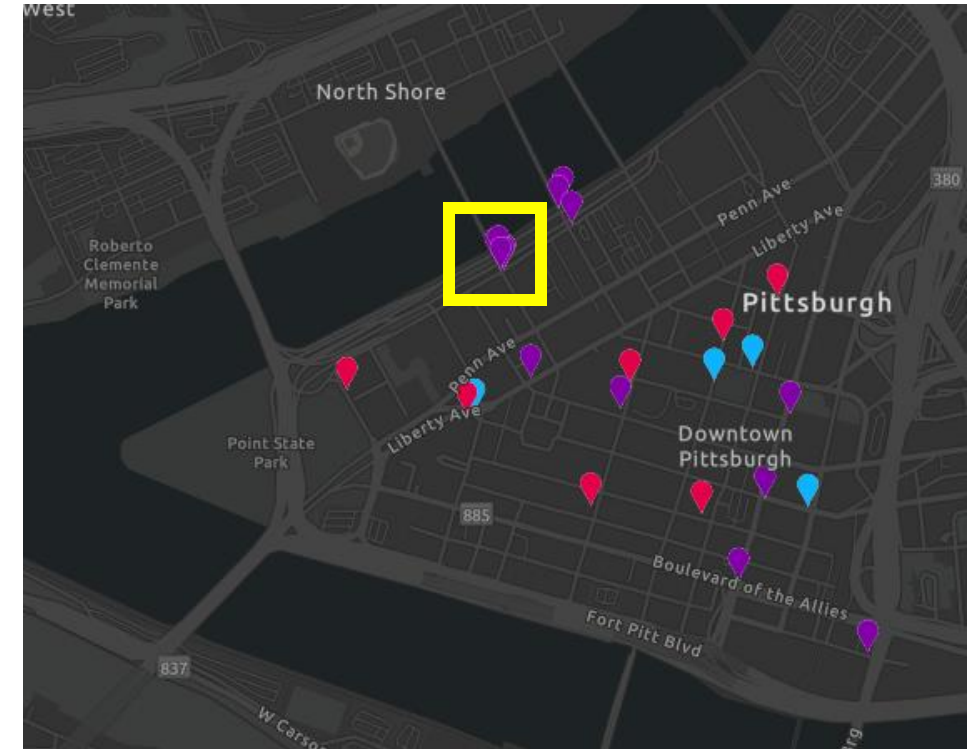


Existing License

Sixth St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (SE)



1 sidewalk vendor

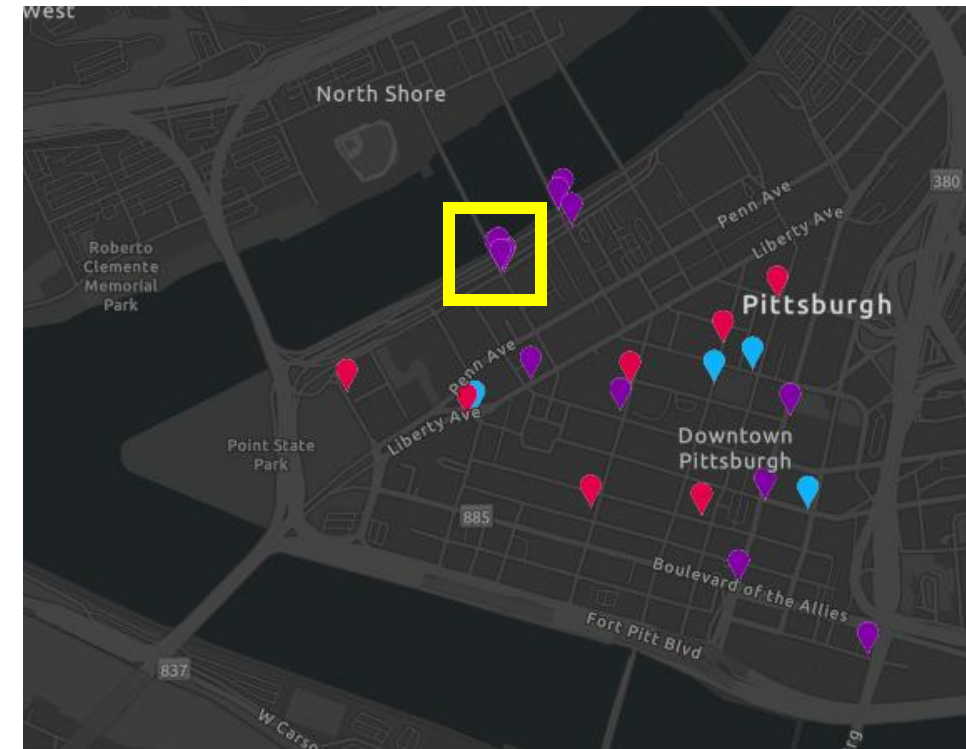


Existing License

Sixth St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (SW)



1 sidewalk vendor

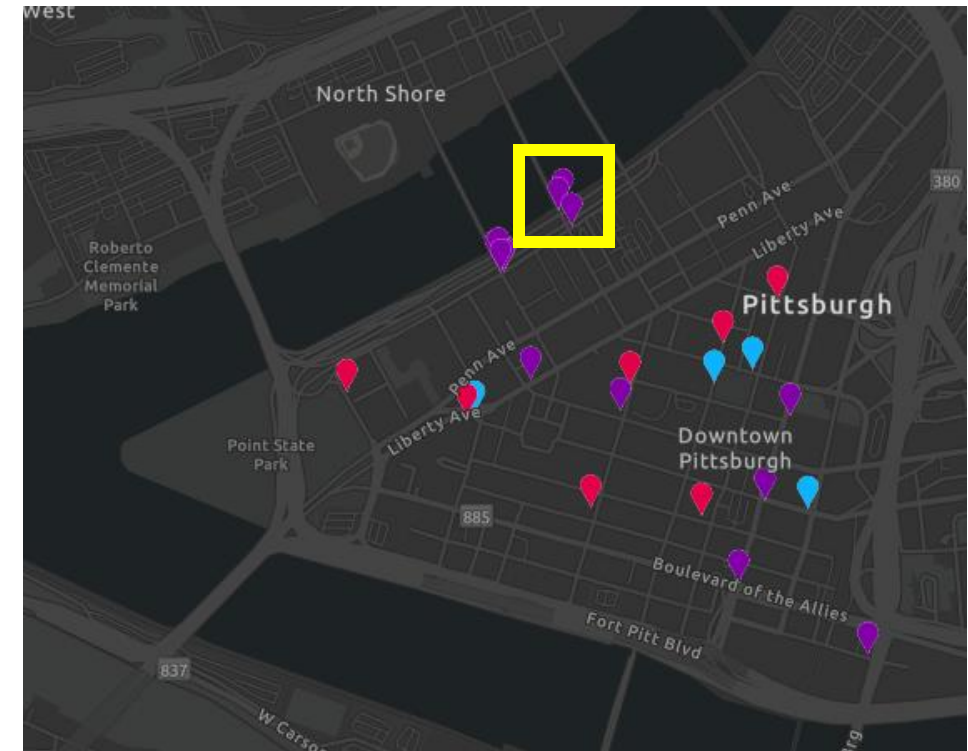


Existing License

Seventh St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (NE)



1 sidewalk vendor

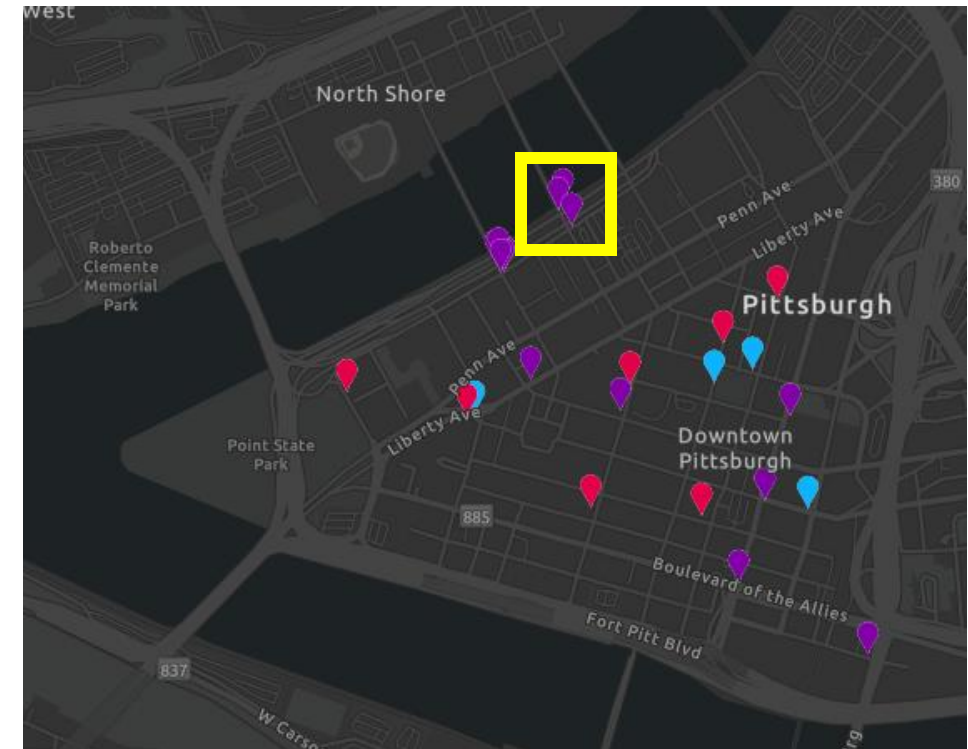


Existing License

Seventh St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (NW)

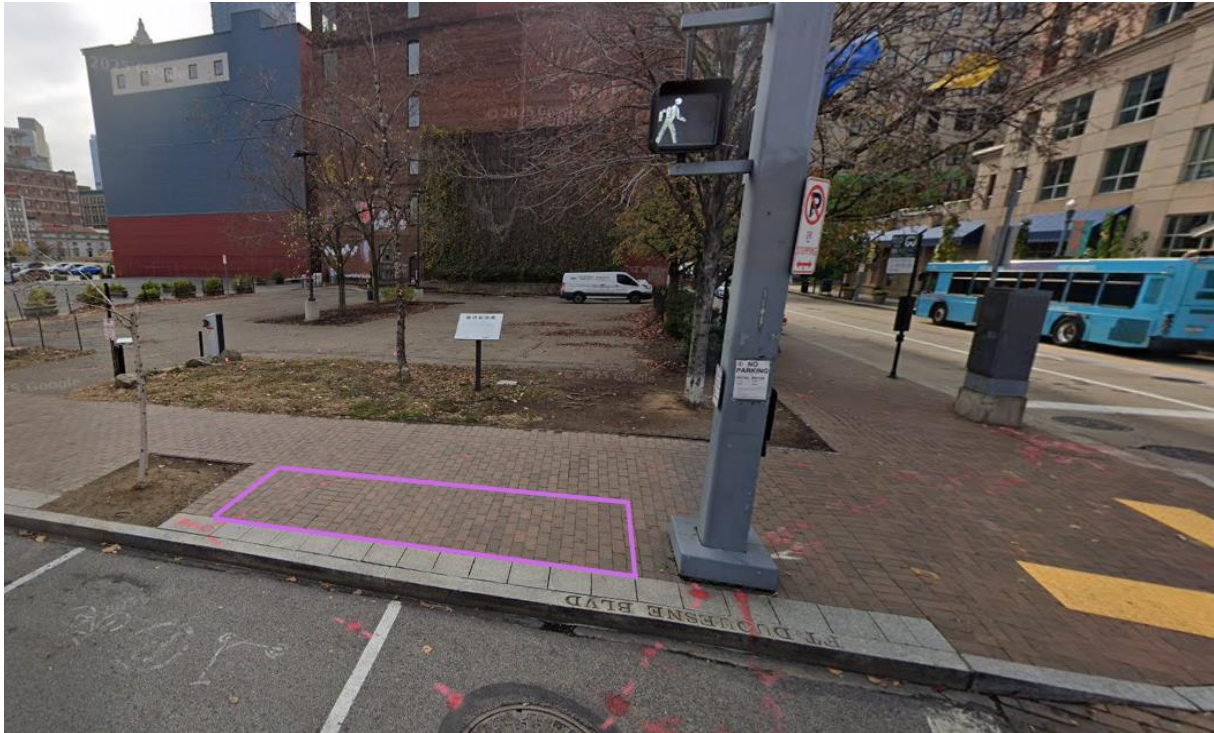


1 sidewalk vendor

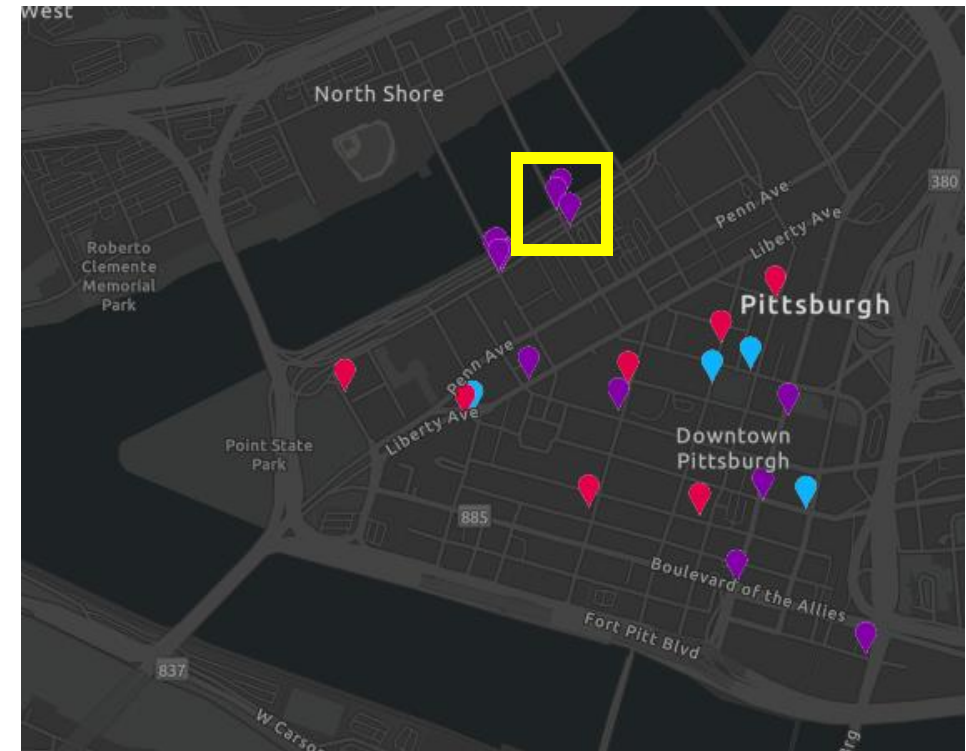


Existing License

Seventh St & Ft Duquesne Blvd (SE)



1 sidewalk vendor



Existing License

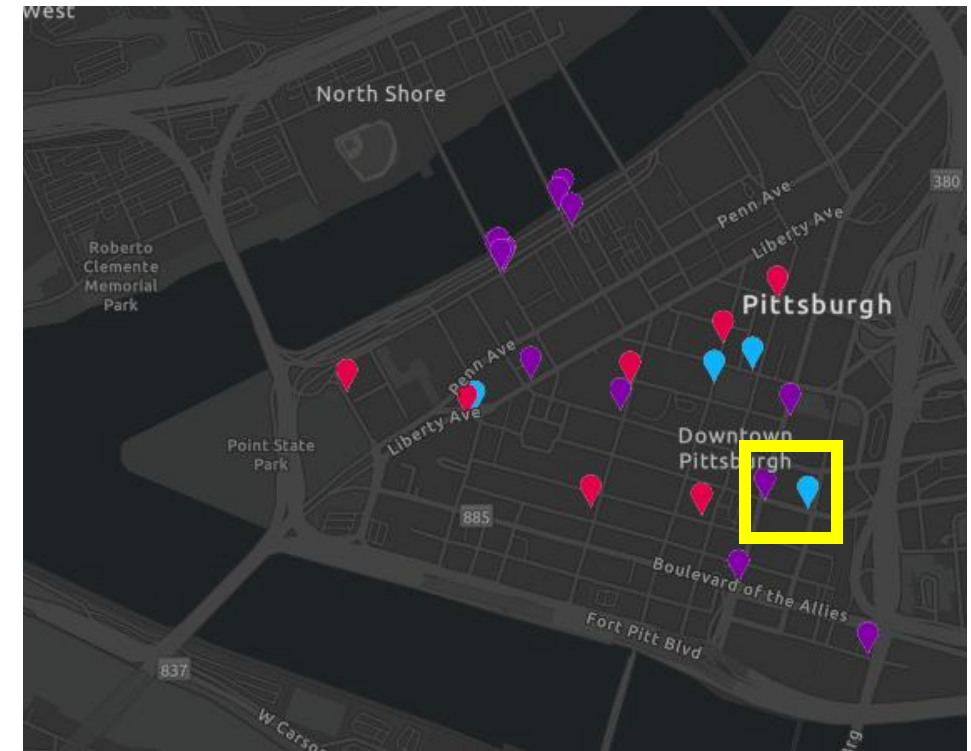


Proposed New and Reactivated Sidewalk Vending Locations

Forbes Ave & Ross St



1 sidewalk vendor



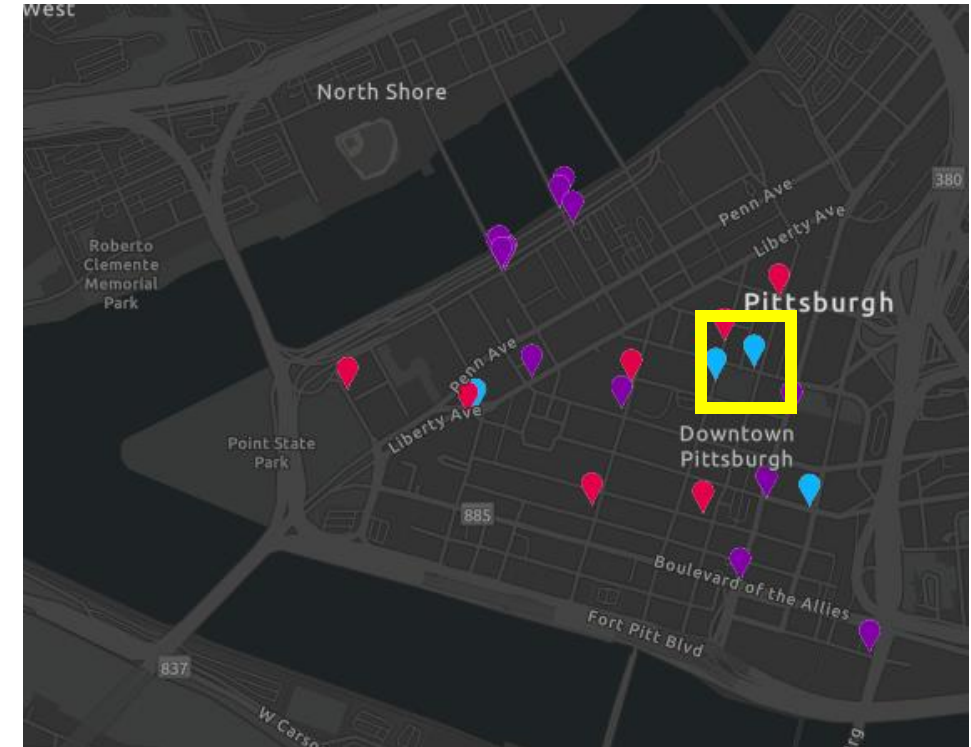
New

Sixth Ave & William Penn Pl

Adjusted in response to Preliminary Review



1 sidewalk vendor

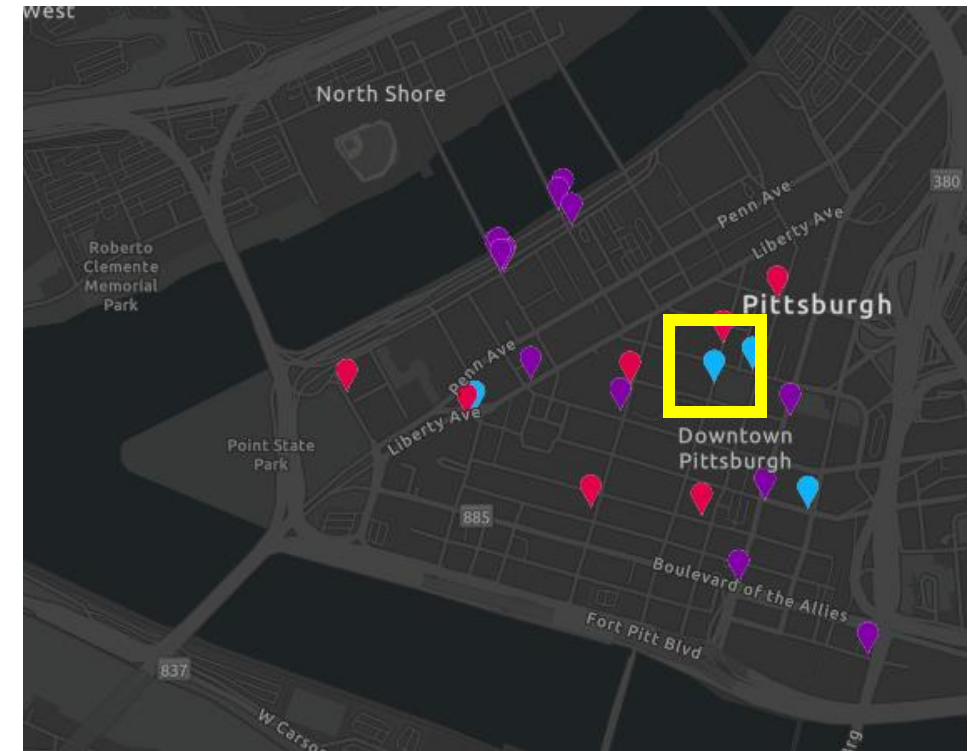


Reactivated

Smithfield St & Oliver Ave



1 sidewalk vendor



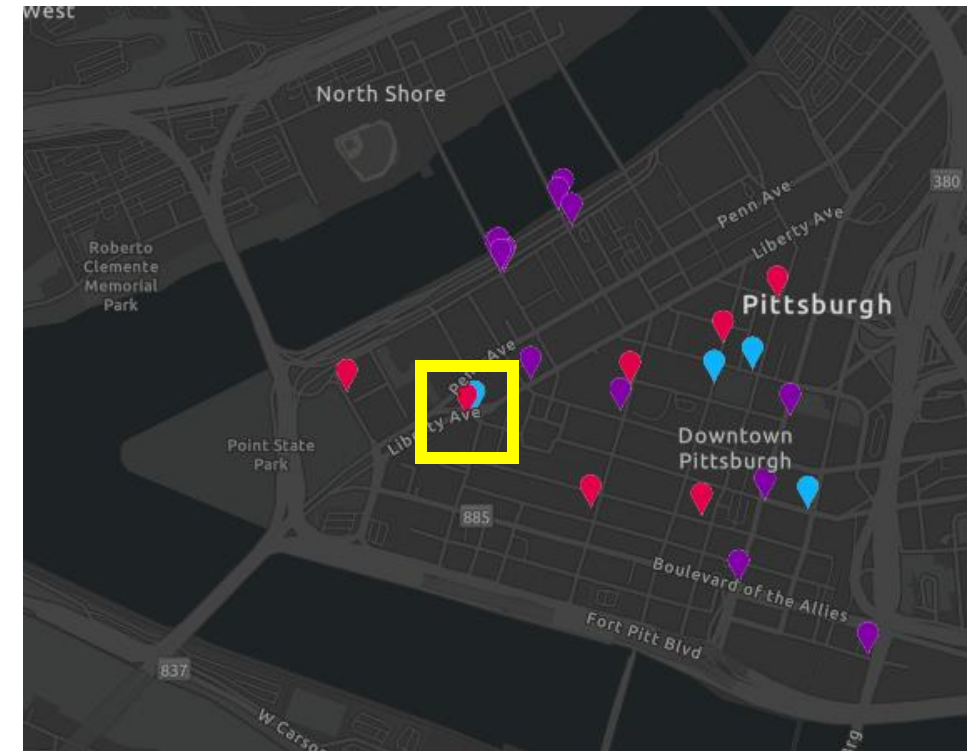
New*

**adjusted from previous Mellon Square location to meet new guidelines*

Liberty Ave & Stanwix St



3 sidewalk vendors



New*

**consolidation of several previous unused locations*



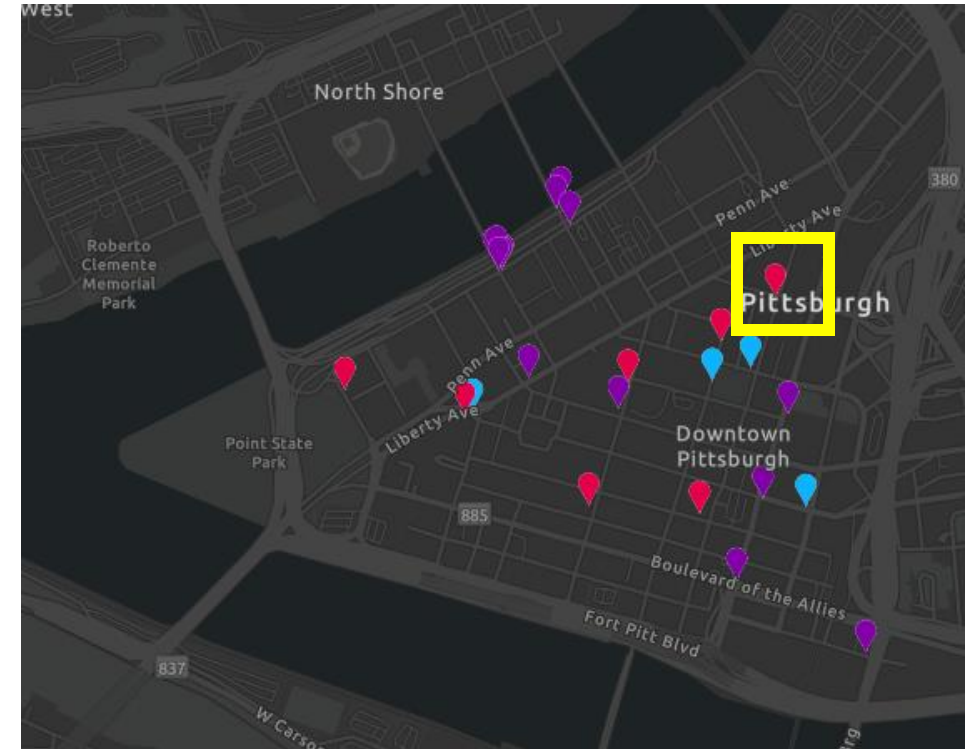
Proposed Parking Lane Vending Locations

*Intentional selections among
metered parking spots*

William Penn Pl & Strawberry Way



3 trucks / trailers

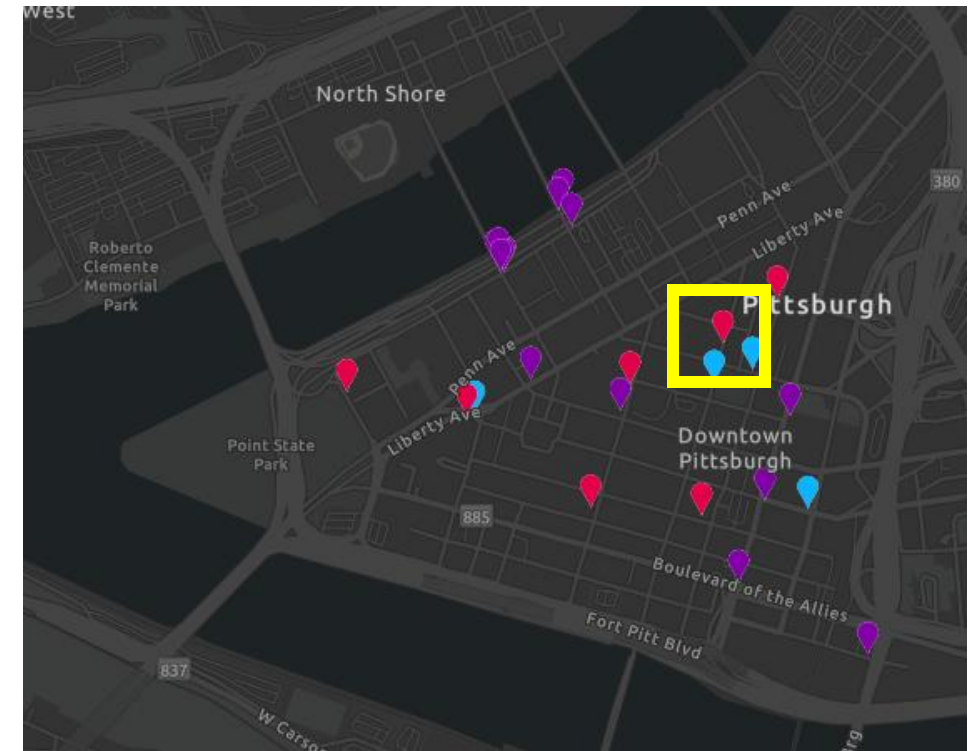


New

Smithfield St & Sixth Ave

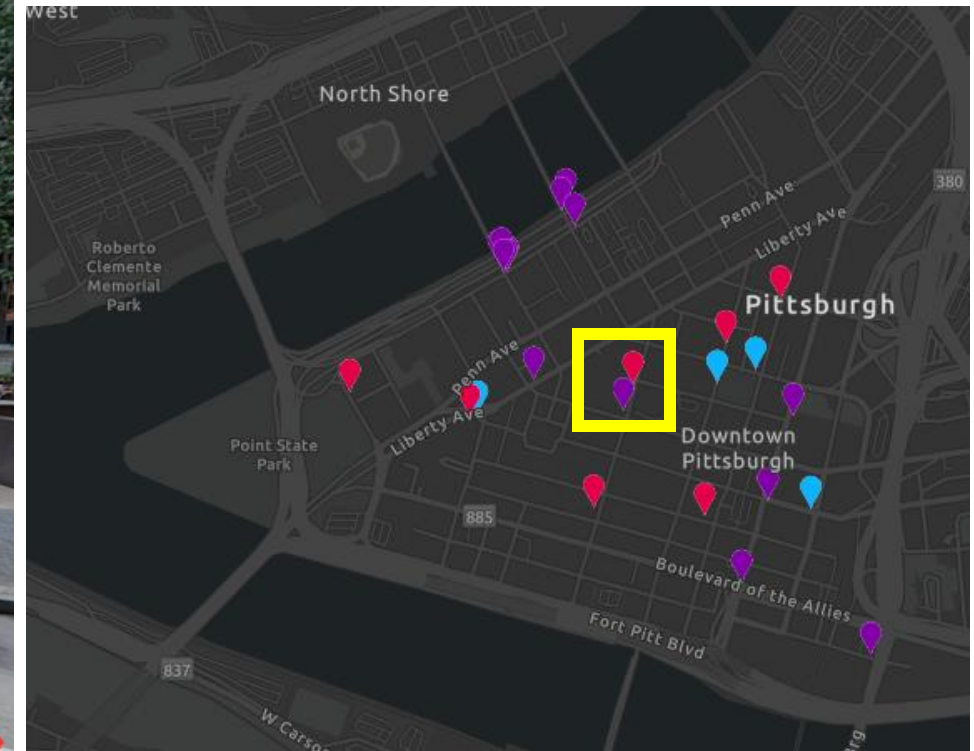
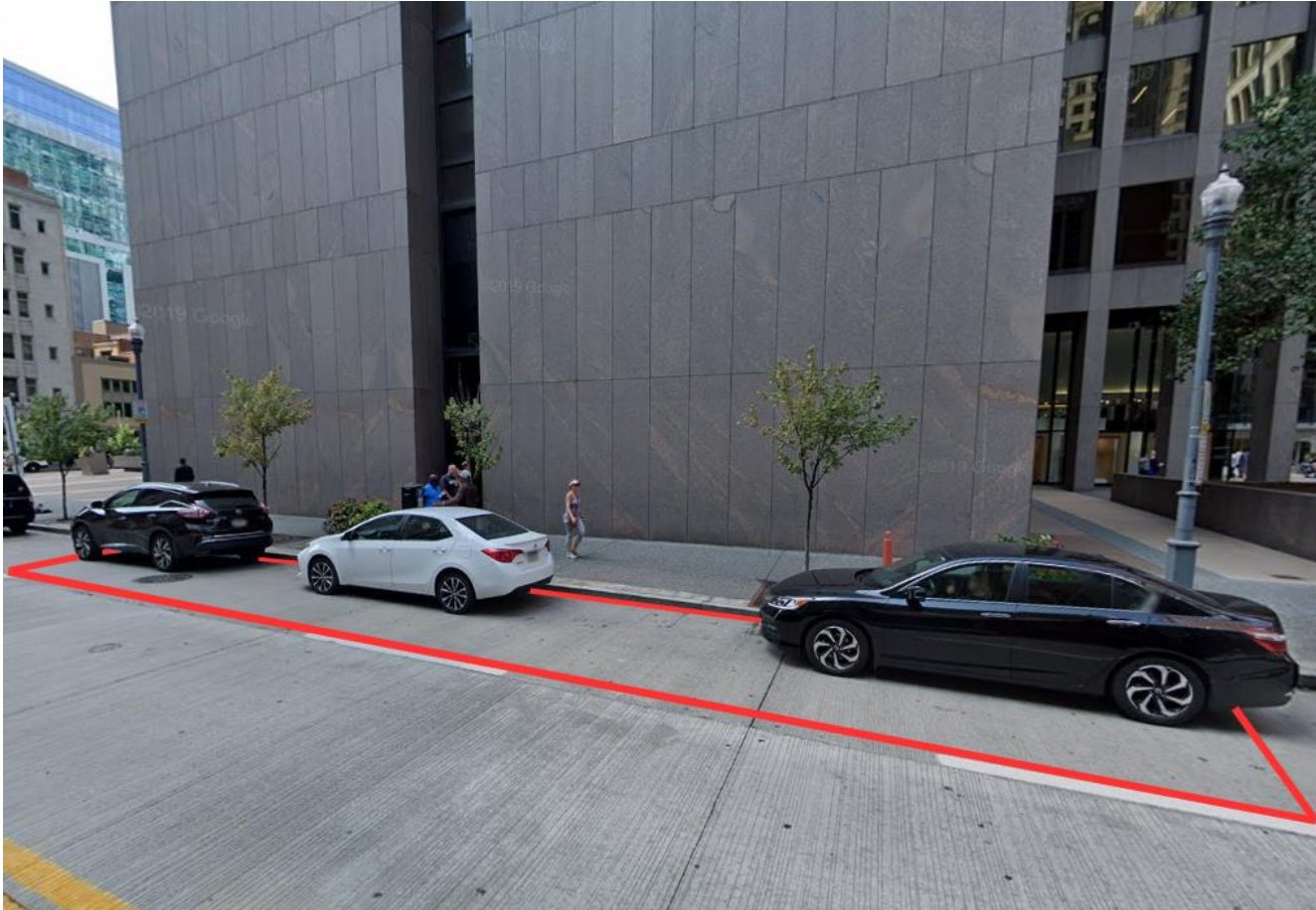


3 trucks / trailers



New

Wood St & Oliver Ave



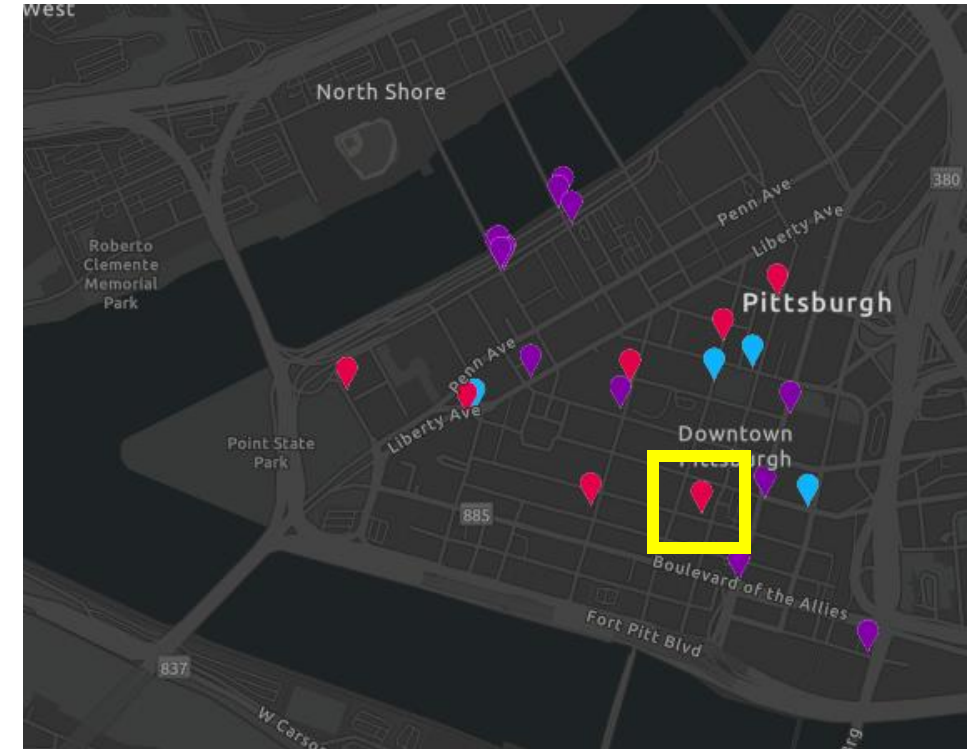
2-3 trucks / trailers

New

Fourth Ave & Cherry Way



3 trucks / trailers

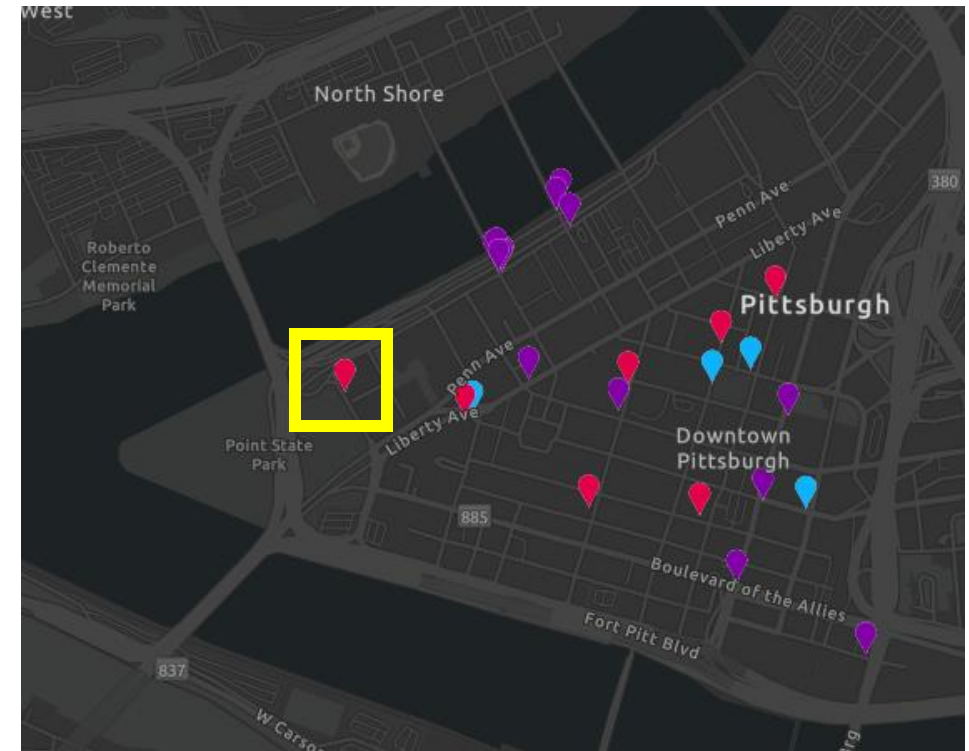


New

Commonwealth Place

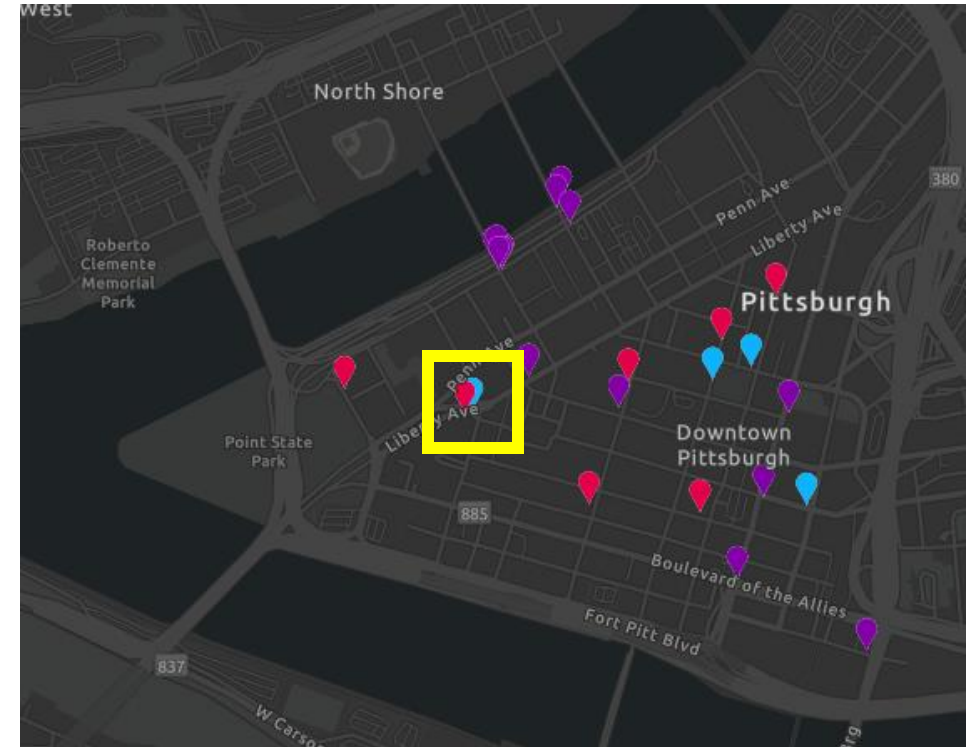


1 truck / trailer



New

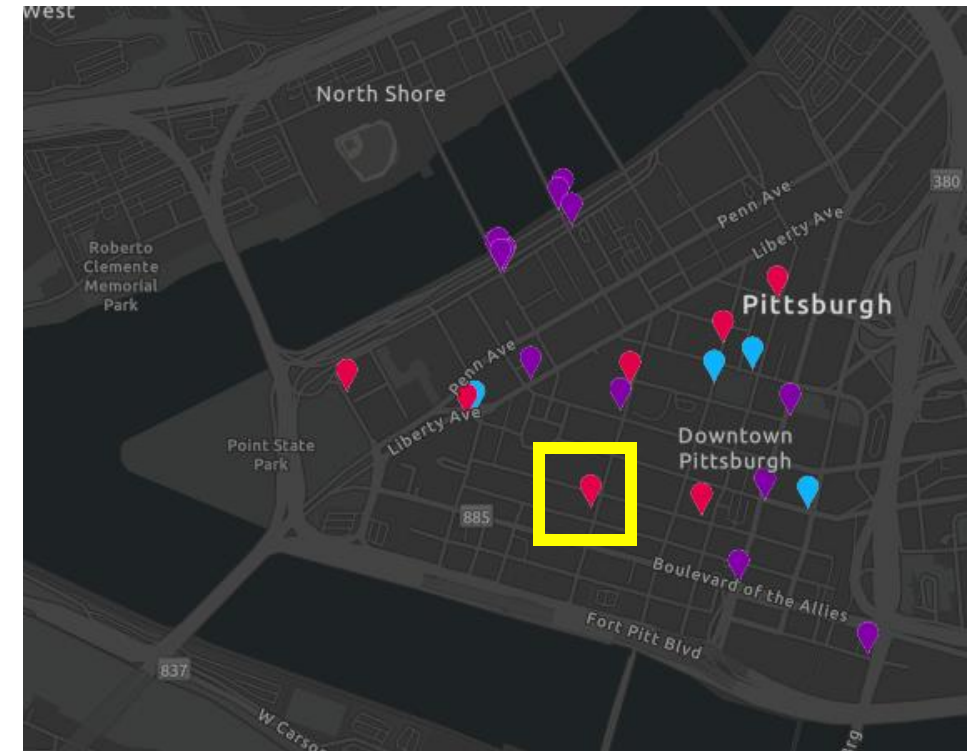
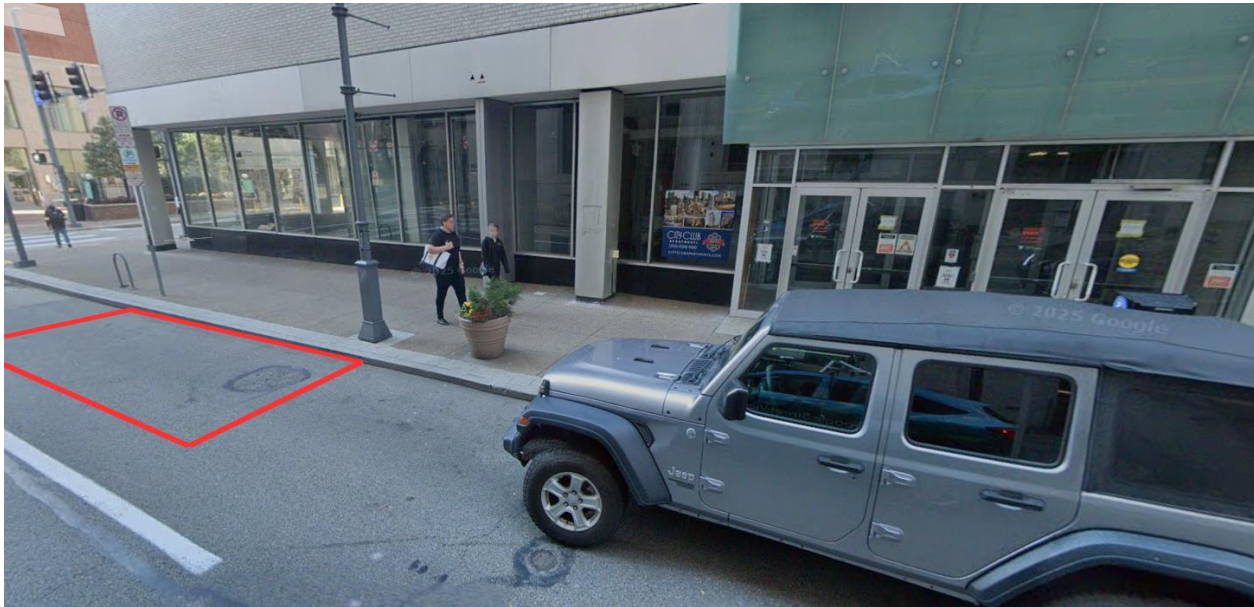
Gateway Center Parking Lane



2 trucks / trailers

New

Wood & Third Parking Lane



1 truck / trailer

New

Three vertical bars of equal height are positioned on the left side of the slide. From left to right, they are yellow, dark blue, and black.

Wrap Up

Preliminary Review

- Community engagement process on legislation and specific locations
 - Focus groups, surveys, best practices
 - Iteration on specific locations
- Current active licenses
 - Downtown, all location-specific licenses are currently for sidewalk vending
- Use of parking when not active for vending
 - Vendors must pay for taking meters out of service
 - When not reserved, they will be in service
- 6th and William Penn Pl space concerns
 - Moved to around the corner
- Wood St & Boulevard of the Allies concerns
 - Location Removed
- Managing trash
 - License holders must provide receptacles if products generate trash
 - Vendors responsible for keeping the 25-foot radius clean

Making Locations Available

- Once locations are approved, they will be available for:
 - Short-term use
 - Annual permits
- Annual permit applicants would need to pay the permitting fee and all the costs of parking. They would need to obey rush-hour restrictions as well.
- Parking spots will require reservations through the Parking Authority. When not in use, they will default to typical use. Some will be only available during select hours for vending due to rush hour restrictions.

Future Applications

- Group Vending locations – at least one group interested so far
- Additional city-proposed locations would come back for Hearing & Action
- City-proposed vending locations in parks will come for Hearing & Action
- Locations nominated by other organizations or individual vendors

Thank You!

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Rylan Seifert – Program Manager, DOMI
Tobias Raether – Policy Analyst, DOMI

Program information available
at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/vending-program>

