

Mobility Permitting Frequently Asked Questions (1-1-21)

Why do I need a mobility permit?

- Allows the city to maintain a safe and orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians through safe work zone practices.
- The mobility permit system provides the city with the ability to properly manage and coordinate use of city streets and sidewalks during construction.

When do I need a mobility permit?

- It shall be unlawful for any person to place, cause, or allow any impairment or obstruction of a sidewalk or roadway, except as authorized by a permit. Permits should be secured prior to obstructing a public roadway or public sidewalk.

Can I apply for a general permit?

- You may only apply for a general permit if you are an employee of the City of Houston or COH franchised entity. If you are a private contractor performing work for the City of Houston please request that the City project manager apply on your behalf.

When do I need a traffic control plan or pedestrian detour plan?

- When closing multiple lanes of a roadway or when closing a sidewalk. However, submittal of traffic control plans is at the discretion of the traffic engineer and may require plan approval from the City of Houston prior to obtaining the mobility permit.

Do I need a mobility permit to park my car or work vehicle?

- Personal and work vehicles may be parked on the street where parking is allowed without a permit. This does not include 18 wheelers, concrete trucks or other vehicles that would restrict the use of a roadway from the public.

What happens if I don't secure a mobility permit?

- You may be subject to citations issued by mobility inspectors or the Houston Police Department.
- Your project is subject to being placed on hold.

How long does it take to get a mobility permit?

- Persons who desire to obtain permits shall make application to the traffic engineer at least ten business days before the date on which the permit is required, unless the traffic engineer approves a shorter time

I already have my street cut permit; do I still need the mobility permit?

- Yes, these permits serve two different functions.

Can I pay for my permit online?

- Yes, our online portal accepts credit card payments and e-checks.

I have rented metered parking spaces during construction; do I still need a mobility permit?

- Yes. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, cause, or allow any impairment or obstruction of a sidewalk or roadway, except as authorized by a permit.

Do I need a mobility permit to place a dumpster on the street during construction of my house?

- Storage of dumpsters on the street is prohibited unless the dumpster is contained within your construction work zone, protected by traffic control devices and permitted.

Can I leave my pod on the street?

- Storage of PODS on the street is prohibited unless the POD is contained within your construction work zone, protected by traffic control devices and permitted.

When do I need a sidewalk closure permit?

- Where there is an improved sidewalk or pathway that is ordinarily used for pedestrian travel and you wish to obstruct or impair it, you will need to apply for a permit. (This could be a concrete, asphalt or grass pedestrian pathway)
- If a sidewalk is to be closed to the public, you are required to provide a pedestrian detour route per the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. <http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/tmutcd/2011-rev-2/6.pdf>
- If the sidewalk is not improved and you wish to improve the sidewalk, the COH will waive the permit fee during the time the sidewalk is being improved.

I need a partial sidewalk closure, do I need a permit and how much space do I leave for pedestrian access?

- If the sidewalk is improved or ordinarily used for pedestrian travel you will need a partial sidewalk closure permit. A minimum 5' pathway is required. Larger pathways may be required for pedestrian use.

What if I have to obstruct a bicycle facility (lane)?

- Permit holder must contact the City of Houston Bike Coordinator prior to obstructing a bike lane (or route) to ensure the safe and acceptable detour of bicycle traffic.
- Bicycle facilities can be identified at www.gims.houstontx.gov/bikeway/default.aspx. A traffic control plan may be required for proper placement of bicycle signage. Personal vehicles may not park in a bicycle facility if awarded a mobility permit.

Mobility Permit fee structure

https://cohweb.houstontx.gov/FIN_FeeSchedule/default.aspx

Fees are based per lane, per week, per block. Example of fee schedule:

One lane closed during peak traffic hours for 14 consecutive days in the 600-700 blocks of Louisiana (CBD). One lane closed for each block (\$160.50 each) x 2 weeks (14 days) = \$642.00

An administrative fee of \$29.72 will be assessed to each permit over \$50

Single lane closure on local street	\$59.45 per lane, per block, per week
Single lane closure outside CBD on major thoroughfares or collector streets	\$107.01 during off peak traffic hours- per lane, per block, per week \$130.78 during peak traffic hours - per lane, per block, per week
Single lane closure inside CBD	\$124.85 during off peak traffic hours - per lane, per block, per week \$160.50 during peak traffic hours - per lane, per block, per week
Partial Sidewalk obstruction (maintaining 5 ft of pedestrian way)	\$71.33 per block, per week
Full Sidewalk obstruction	\$112.95 per block, per week

Sidewalk Café Permit fee

Sidewalk café permit (initial year)	\$178.35
Sidewalk café permit renewal	\$89.18