

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



**d.** Public Space Regulation Division (PSRD)

September 21, 2020

## DDOT Releases TOPS Enhancement for Sidewalk Cafe Permits

### *Application Improvement Integrates Business License Verifications with DCRA's API*

**Washington, D.C.** – The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) today launched an enhanced key feature and new application design for Sidewalk Café permits. The **enhancement** now allows the individual unit number (where it exists) of the sidewalk café to be captured along with the location address for each permit. In addition, the enhancement allows real-time verification of business licenses to be done directly in the [Transportation Online Permitting System \(TOPS\)](#) through D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Application Programming Interface (API) portal as part of the permitting process.

This key enhancement will allow real-time verification of business licenses and allow sidewalk café applicants to enter their DCRA license number and obtain license verification within TOPS. This API allows both websites (TOPS and DCRA's licensing portal) to communicate with each other by allowing DCRA's licensing data to be captured within TOPS, which is displayed in detail for applicants. Enhancement will provide real-time notification whether a license is valid or expired all within one location. This benefits applicants by providing up-to-date licensing information on their businesses, and their current statuses with DCRA and the District.

The new interface will benefit DDOT's Permitting team who can now see actual licensing statuses that will allow for more accurate processing of Sidewalk Café applications; and assist DDOT's Enforcement and Inspections Officers to ensure compliance in the public space.

Questions may be directed to DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division, Customer Relations Branch at (202) 442-4670.

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