



# Mobile Bicycle Vending

Interested in operating a mobile bicycle vending business in the City of Victoria? There are a few steps you need to know in order to ensure your opening day goes off without a hitch.

## Starting your Business – Step by Step

### 1. Contact the Business Hub

While an optional step, contacting the Business Hub is a great way to start your business in the City. The Business Hub is a first point of contact for business start-ups. The Business Ambassador can help you navigate the City's business processes, connect you to relevant agencies like the Vancouver Island Healthy Authority and direct you to other business resources.

Business Hub  
[bizhub@victoria.ca](mailto:bizhub@victoria.ca)  
 250.361.0629

Hours of Business:

Monday to Friday  
 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### 2 Register your Business

In order to start a business in the Province of BC, you will need to register your business with BC Registry Services.

[www.bcbusinessregistry.ca](http://www.bcbusinessregistry.ca)

### 3 Apply for a Business Licence

All businesses in the City of Victoria are required to obtain a Business Licence.

The fee for a Mobile Bicycle Vending Business Licence is \$100.

Applications are available at the Public Service Counter on the first floor of City Hall, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Applications forms are also available online.

For inquires, please contact Business Licensing at [businesslicence@victoria.ca](mailto:businesslicence@victoria.ca)

Required documentation needed prior to Business Licence approval:

- Photographs of bicycle
- Valid Vancouver Island Health Authority approval

## Approval from Vancouver Island Health Authority

For additional information on Vancouver Island Health Requirements.

If all mandatory documents are submitted with the application form, approvals are expected no later than 10 days.

## Operating your Mobile Bicycling Vending Business in the City

1. Familiarize yourself with the [Motor Vehicle Act](#), [Streets and Traffic Bylaw](#) and [Parks Regulation Bylaw](#). These regulations describe the rules that govern the operation of bicycles on BC roads, City streets and in City parks.
2. Affix your bicycle decal to your bicycle. This will be provided to you once your Business Licence is approved.
3. Follow the requirements as outlined in the Mobile Bicycle Vending Miscellaneous Amendments Bylaw, 2019.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

We are here to help! If you have any questions please contact us at:

Business Hub  
[bizhub@victoria.ca](mailto:bizhub@victoria.ca)  
 250.361.0629

Business Licensing  
[businesslicence@victoria.ca](mailto:businesslicence@victoria.ca)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What products can I sell?

Food, non-alcoholic beverages, flowers, and hand-crafted items made in British Columbia.

This program lends itself to ready-to-eat food that is not potentially hazardous and is produced in a licensed food establishment. Examples include frozen treats, such as ice cream and popsicles, beverages including juice, coffee or tea, baked goods and pre-assembled food such as sandwiches.

**Tip:** Check with Vancouver Island Health Authority to ensure your food or beverage idea is permitted.

### 2. Where can I operate?

Mobile bicycle vendors can operate on all City streets and in City parks, except Beacon Hill Park where commercial activity is currently prohibited. You may stop next to yellow curbs and on hard surfaces in parks and off multi-use pathways. Mobile bicycle vendors can use [VicMap](#), the City's interactive mapping system, to determine City boundaries, bicycle routes, parks and schools.

### 3. Where can't I operate?

Non-city owned property, including the Ogden Point Breakwater and Inner Harbour Causeway. Multi-use pathways in the City, including the Galloping Goose and the E&N Rail Trail, are also not allowed as these are managed by the Capital Regional District. Lastly, vendors must adhere to the rules that govern bicycles in the City, which includes not riding on sidewalks.

### 4. Are there rules around schools and businesses?

Mobile bicycle vendors must remain 100 metres away from a business selling a similar product and 30 metres away from a school from Monday to Friday during school hours.

### 5. Are there rules around selling similar products in the vicinity of other businesses?

Yes.

**For example:** a mobile bicycle vendor is parked less than 100 metres from a juice business.

**Not allowed:** The mobile bicycle vendor sells only juice. This food concept or theme is too similar to the juice business.

**Allowed:** The mobile vendor sells breakfast items (e.g. pastries) including juice. The juice menu item is the only similarity to the juice business.

### 6. How long can I operate?

Between 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days a week. If you're operating when it's dark outside, it is a requirement under the Motor Vehicle Act that all bicycles must have front and rear lights installed on their bike.

### 7. Can I advertise on my bike?

Yes. But only for your business and if you do so the advertising must be integrated into your bike (i.e. no portable signs).

### 8. Can I have music?

No amplified sound is allowed but you can install a bell on your bike.

### 9. Does my mobile bike vending operating unit have to be a certain size?

No. It is up to you to determine the size of a mobile bike vending operating unit that will fit your needs.

**Note:** The mobile bicycle vending operating unit must be self-contained. A vendor may not affix or place any tables, chairs, stools, awnings or umbrellas to public property.

### 10. Can I add an electric assist to my bike?

Yes, but the motor must be electric and have a total combined rated output of not more than 500 watts and be incapable of propelling the cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/h on level ground, without pedaling. The motor must be capable of being propelled by muscular power using the pedals, but it is not necessary to always be pedaling.

### 11. Can I take my bike to a special event?

Yes, but you will need to apply for a Special Event Permit and receive permission from the event organizer.

### 12. How long can I stop for?

You may stop for up to 60 minutes and then move to another location. It is intended for mobile bicycle vendors to roam around the city selling their products.

### 13. What is the business licensing fee?

\$100

### 14. How long will it take to process my business licence application?

If all required documents are submitted with the application form, you can expect an approval no later than 10 days.