



# Entertainment District/Special Event Liquor Permitting Roundtable

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 9:00 - 10:30am



The Littleton Downtown Development Authority (LDDA), City of Littleton staff, State Liquor Enforcement representatives, downtown businesses, and property owners met to discuss special event liquor permitting and the potential future use of an Entertainment District in Downtown Littleton. The conversation focused on understanding available event tools, operational impacts, and opportunities to better support downtown activations and community events.

## Meeting Purpose

- Explore the differences between:
  - Special Event Alcohol Permits
  - Festival Permits
  - Entertainment Districts (EDs)
- Better understand how each option could support future Downtown Littleton events and activations.
- Discuss operational considerations, safety requirements, business impacts, and permitting limitations.

## Key Discussion Topics

### Entertainment District Overview

State Liquor Enforcement representatives provided an overview of how Entertainment Districts currently function in other Colorado communities.

Key takeaways included:

- Entertainment Districts allow participating liquor-licensed businesses to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within a designated common area during approved events.
- Districts require:
  - Defined boundaries and street closures
  - A certified promotional organization
  - Ongoing security and enforcement measures
  - Annual participation and reporting requirements
- Businesses remain responsible for violations tied to their liquor licenses, even within the district footprint.
- Participating businesses would need to monitor cups, consumption areas, and ensure alcohol does not leave designated boundaries.
- Streets would need to be closed and the area fenced during events.
- A Special Event Alcohol Permit can be pulled for the event but cannot be held in the common consumption area (could be adjacent to the area)

### **Festival Permit Discussion**

A large portion of the conversation focused on festival permits as a possible alternative for downtown events.

Discussion points included:

- Festival permits may offer greater flexibility for occasional downtown events.
- Permits allow participating licensed businesses to serve alcohol within an approved event footprint.
- Festival permits:
  - Must be coordinated in advance
  - Pulled by an on-premise license holder
  - Can only be pulled to be held on grounds that are not already licensed (Main Street would be an example)
  - Require participating businesses to be listed ahead of time
  - Are limited in number annually
    - Each license holder can only pull 9 per year, however there is no limitation to how many festival permits a license holder can participate in each year
- Participants discussed concerns about permit limitations, event coordination, and ensuring clear communication between the City, DDA, businesses, and event organizers.

- A festival permit can coexist with a special event alcohol permit.

## **Business & Operational Considerations**

Additional topics discussed included:

- Security and staffing requirements
- Street closures and event footprint sizes
- Impacts to licensed patios and modified premises
- Liability concerns tied to liquor licenses
- Coordination between downtown events and participating businesses
- Opportunities for improved communication and long-term planning around downtown activations.

## **Next Steps**

Based on the discussion, there appeared to be stronger interest in continuing to explore festival permits and related operational improvements rather than immediately pursuing a formal Entertainment District model.

## **Moving forward:**

- The LDDA will continue collaborating with the City of Littleton and City Council, downtown businesses, and property owners to evaluate event permitting options.
- Conversations will focus on creating clearer processes, communication, and potential guardrails around downtown festival permits.
- Additional stakeholder input and future discussions may help shape how Downtown Littleton supports events and activations moving forward.