

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO: 10.5

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Streets

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Approving a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure of Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025, 6 am to 6 pm, daily.

SUMMARY:

- Pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 21101 and Div. II, section 206 of the Transportation Code, the SFMTA Board of Directors may approve the Longer-Term Closure of a Traffic Lane of any Street for Roadway Shared Spaces activities.
- Roadway Shared Spaces closures which significantly interfere with or delay a public transit service, exceed ten consecutive hours per day over four consecutive days per week, or exceed a total period of time more than two years are considered to be Longer-Term Closure and therefore require approval from this Board.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closure has been presented at an Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT) public hearing.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closure has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- The decision of the SFMTA Board of Directors with respect to any proposed Longer-Term Closure of a Traffic Lane shall be final.

ENCLOSURES:

1. SFMTAB Resolution
2. Better Streets Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration
http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2007.1238E_FMND.pdf
3. Better Streets Plan CEQA Findings, Planning Commission Resolution
https://sfplanning.s3.amazonaws.com/default/files/meetingarchive/planning_dept/sf-planning.org/ftp/files/Commission/cpcpackets/2007.1238emrtu.pdf
4. Better Streets Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration Shared Spaces Addendum
<https://citypln-m.extnl.sfgov.org/SharedLinks.aspx?accesskey=bc61363c7effb77e5715d781677a071ae265f0cdbf27c18bd9d91b3402e0900a&VaultGUID=A4A7DACD-B0DC-4322-BD29-F6F07103C6E0>

APPROVALS:

DATE

DIRECTOR  _____

January 10, 2024

SECRETARY  _____

January 10, 2024

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: January 16, 2024

PAGE 2.

PURPOSE

Approving a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure of Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025, 6 am to 6 pm, daily.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND TRANSIT FIRST POLICY PRINCIPLES

This item will support the following goals and objectives of the SFMTA Strategic Plan:

Goal 6: Eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by increasing use of transit, walking and bicycling.

Goal 7: Build stronger relationships with stakeholders.

This item will support the following Transit First Policy Principles:

1. To ensure quality of life and economic health in San Francisco, the primary objective of the transportation system must be the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
3. Decisions regarding the use of limited public street and sidewalk space shall encourage the use of public rights of way by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit, and shall strive to reduce traffic and improve public health and safety.

DISCUSSION

St. Anthony's Foundation (the applicant) has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which would close Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025, 6 am to 6 pm, daily, to vehicular traffic.

St. Anthony's Foundation has operated a street closure in this location since April 2020, originally permitted through a pandemic emergency order, then through the temporary pandemic era Shared Spaces program. In April 2023 the sponsor was granted a permit under the permanent Roadway Shared Spaces program to expand the operating hours of the street closure from the previously permitted 6 am to 3 pm, daily, to the currently proposed 6 am to 6 pm hours. During a 6-month period from April and October 2023, SFMTA staff reviewed traffic and transit travel times on streets adjacent to the closure and found that the street closure did not significantly increase travel times for traffic or nearby transit service.

The proposed closure would allow St. Anthony's Foundation and their community partners to provide community services in the closure area. Community services to be provided include: gentle movement classes, free pet food and veterinary care, a pop-up library, bicycle repair pop-ups, bike riding classes, and neighborhood food pantry distribution. The proposed closure is supported by local nonprofit organizations including the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco Tenderloin Clubhouse, Larkin Street Youth Services, 826 Valencia, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, and Mercy Housing California. The proposal is also supported by the neighborhood, which prioritized

PAGE 3.

funding for the closure as part of the Tenderloin Community Action Plan participatory budgeting process lead by SF Planning.

The request is to close Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets every day from 6 am to 6 pm, to vehicular traffic, for one year (Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025), as requested by the applicant. The SFMTA Board of Directors is asked to consider the approval of a Longer-Term Closure under the authority granted by California Vehicle Code section 21101 and Div. II, section 206 of the Transportation Code for the purpose of issuing a Roadway Shared Spaces permit. In doing so the Board would find based upon a determination of public convenience and necessity that the subject portion of Golden Gate Avenue is no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours, and that the street closure is necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use the street during the closure.

ITEMS

The following items were considered at Public Hearing on December 7, 2023, Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025, 6 am to 6 pm, daily.

Item A would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for community services provided by St. Anthony’s Foundation and their community partners.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Item A was considered at a Public Hearing held on December 7, 2023 by the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT). No public comments were received at the hearing. In advance of the hearing, ISCOTT received letters of support from five local non-profit organizations including several located on or adjacent to the subject block of Golden Gate Avenue.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The details of the proposed closure presented in item A are as requested by the applicant.

FUNDING IMPACT

This item has no financial impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On April 19, 2021, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the Shared Spaces Program (Case No. 2021-003010ENV), inclusive of Item A, is within the scope of the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND, Case No. 2007.1238E, September 17, 2010), and

PAGE 4.

that the proposal would not require the preparation of a subsequent negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines section 15162. On October 28, 2010, the Planning Commission in Resolution No. 18211, adopted findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code (CEQA Findings), and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), associated with the Better Streets Plan.

Copies of the CEQA determinations are on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and may be found in the records of the Planning Department by Case Number at <https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/> or 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 in San Francisco, and are incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED

Pursuant to section 206 of the Transportation Code, the decision of the SFMTA Board of Directors with respect to any proposed Longer-Term Closure of a Traffic Lane shall be final.

A public hearing for item A was held at the December 7, 2023 meeting of the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

The City Attorney has reviewed this item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure of Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025, 6 am to 6 pm, daily.

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has received an application for a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure as follows:

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Golden Gate Avenue between Leavenworth and Jones streets, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Monday, January 6, 2025, 6 am to 6 pm, daily.

WHEREAS, The subject portion of the above listed streets is no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours and the street closure is necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use that portion of the street during the closure; and

WHEREAS, On September 17, 2010, the San Francisco Planning Department published the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Better Streets Plan FMND, Case No. 2007.1238E), and under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code—the San Francisco Planning Commission adopted CEQA Findings, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on October 28, 2010 under Motion 18211; and

WHEREAS, On April 19, 2021, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the Shared Spaces Program (Case No. 2021-003010ENV), inclusive of Item A, is within the scope of the Better Streets Plan FMND and that it would not require the preparation of a subsequent negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA Board of Directors has reviewed the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND) and Addendum and finds that since adoption of the FMND, no changes have occurred in the proposed project or in the circumstances under which the project would be implemented that would cause new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts identified and analyzed in the FMND, and that no new information has emerged that would materially change the analysis or conclusions set forth in the FMND; The actions approved herein would not necessitate implementation or additional or considerably different mitigation measures that those identified in the FMND; and

WHEREAS, Copies of the CEQA determinations are on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and may be found in the records of the Planning Department by Case Number at <https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/> or 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 in San Francisco, and are incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, The public has been notified about the proposed modifications and has been given the opportunity to comment on those modifications through the public hearing process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors adopts these CEQA findings as its own; a copy of the Planning Commission Resolution, the CEQA findings, and the CEQA determinations are on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and may be found in the records of the Planning Department at <https://sfplanning.org/> and 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 in San Francisco, and is incorporated herein by reference; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency approves Item A above, and finds that the subject portion of the above listed street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours and the street closure is necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use that portion of the street during the closure.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of January 16, 2024.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency