

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO: 10.3

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Streets

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Approving various Roadway Shared Spaces closures and making environmental review findings.

SUMMARY:

- 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 a Longer-Term Closure and therefore require approval from this Board.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces closures would close the following areas to vehicular traffic part time: (1) Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane; (2) Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place; and (3) Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces closures have been presented at an Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation public hearing.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closures have been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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-mextnl.sfgov.org/SharedLinks.aspx?accesskey=bc61363c7effb77e5715d781677a071ae265f0cdbf27c18bd9d91b3402e0900a&VaultGUID=A4A7DACD-B0DC-4322-BD29-F6F07103C6E0>

APPROVALS:

DATE

DIRECTOR



March 13, 2024

SECRETARY



March 13, 2024

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: March 19, 2024

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PURPOSE

Approving Roadway Shared Spaces street closures of Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2 pm to 11 pm, Sunday through Monday, and 2 pm to 1:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday; Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place, Saturday, April 1, 2024, through Sunday, March 31, 2025, 11 am to 11 pm, daily; Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 11:30 am to 9 pm, each Sunday through Thursday, and 11:30 am to 10 pm, each Friday and Saturday; and making environmental review findings.

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

Harlan Records Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure

Harlan Records is a cocktail bar located in Union Square area. Harlan Records has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which would close Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2 pm to 11 pm, Sunday through Monday, and 2 pm to 1:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday, to vehicular traffic. This closure was originally permitted under the pandemic era Shared Spaces program beginning in 2021 and sponsored by a previous business at the same location. In late 2022 Harlan Records opened in place of the previous sponsor and was granted a permit to continue the Roadway Shared Spaces closure. In April 2023, Harlan Records was granted a permit under the permanent Roadway Shared Spaces program. This proposed closure is a renewal of Harlan Records' street closure and updates the closure hours to match its business hours. Harlan Records has reached out to neighboring businesses and the Union Square Alliance about their proposed closure.

Irish Bank Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure

The Irish Bank is a bar and restaurant located in the Union Square area. The Irish Bank has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which would close Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place, Saturday, April 1, 2024, through Sunday, March 31, 2025, 11 am to 11 pm,

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daily. The Irish Bank has used this portion of Mark Lane for outdoor dining for over twenty years. This application is a renewal of the Irish Bank's previous Roadway Shared Spaces permit, which was issued in 2022 and proposes no changes to their closure footprint and setup.

Wayfare Tavern Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure

Wayfare Tavern is a restaurant located in the financial district. Wayfare Tavern has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which would close Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 11:30 am to 9 pm, each Sunday through Thursday, and 11:30 am to 10 pm, each Friday and Saturday. Wayfare Tavern has operated a street closure in this location since July 2020, originally permitted through a pandemic emergency order, then through the temporary pandemic era Shared Spaces program. This application is a renewal from the previous year and proposes no changes to their closure footprint and setup.

The requests are to close the following areas to vehicular traffic, as requested by the respective applicants:

- Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2 pm to 11 pm, Sunday through Monday, and 2 pm to 1:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday;
- Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place, Saturday, April 1, 2024, through Sunday, March 31, 2025, 11 am to 11 pm, daily; and
- Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 11:30 am to 9 pm, each Sunday through Thursday, and 11:30 am to 10 pm, each Friday and Saturday.

The SFMTA Board of Directors is asked to consider the approval of a Longer-Term Closure of the above areas 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 portions of Harlan Place, Mark Lane, and Leidesdorff Street are no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours, and that the street closures are necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use the street during the closure.

ITEMS

The following item was considered at a Public Hearing held on February 8, 2024, by the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2 pm to 11 pm, Sunday through Monday, and 2 pm to 1:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday.

Item A would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for Harlan Records.

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The following items were considered at a Public Hearing held on February 22, 2024, by ISCOTT.

- B. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place, Saturday, April 1, 2024, through Sunday, March 31, 2025, 11 am to 11 pm, daily.

Item B would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for the Irish Bank.

- C. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 11:30 am to 9 pm, each Sunday through Thursday, and 11:30 am to 10 pm, each Friday and Saturday.

Item C would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for Wayfare Tavern.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Item A was considered at a Public Hearing held on February 8, 2024 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 a letter of support from the Union Square Alliance.

Item B was considered at a Public Hearing held on February 22, 2024 by ISCOTT. No public comments were received at the hearing. In advance of the hearing, ISCOTT received a letter of support from Pete’s Building Management and their tenants at 429 Bush Street, which abuts the subject portion of Mark Lane and houses the Irish Bank.

Item C was considered at a Public Hearing held on February 22, 2024 by ISCOTT. No public comments were received at the hearing. In advance of the hearing, ISCOTT received letters of support from the Downtown SF Partnership and neighboring business Heartwood.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The details of the proposed closure presented in items A, B, and C are as requested by the applicants.

FUNDING IMPACT

The ISCOTT application fee, which applies to Roadway Shared Spaces (Transportation Code SEC 6.16(g)), is set at a cost recovery rate to cover staff’s time and effort to review the subject application. Applicants for items A and C have paid an application fee of \$1,200 for items submitted 120 days or more before the first event. The applicant for item B has paid an application fee of \$1,800 for applications submitted 60 to 89 days before the first event.

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On April 19, 2021, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the Shared Spaces Program (Case No. 2021-003010ENV), inclusive of items A, B, and C, is within the scope of the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND, Case No. 2007.1238E, September 17, 2010), and 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 February 8, 2024 meeting of the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT). A public hearing for Items B and C was held at the February 22, 2024 meeting of the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

The City Attorney has reviewed this item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve various Roadway Shared Spaces street closures of Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2 pm to 11 pm, Sunday through Monday, and 2 pm to 1:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday; Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place, Saturday, April 1, 2024, through Sunday, March 31, 2025, 11 am to 11 pm, daily; Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, and 11:30 am to 9 pm, each Sunday through Thursday; 11:30 am to 10 pm, each Friday and Saturday; and make environmental review findings.

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has received applications for Roadway Shared Spaces street closures as follows:

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 2 pm to 11 pm, Sunday through Monday, and 2 pm to 1:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday.
- B. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Mark Lane between Bush Street and Harlan Place, Saturday, April 1, 2024, through Sunday, March 31, 2025, 11 am to 11 pm, daily;
- C. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Leidesdorff Street between Sacramento and Commercial streets Saturday, May 25, 2024, through Sunday, May 25, 2025, 11:30 am to 9 pm, each Sunday through Thursday, and 11:30 am to 10 pm, each Friday and Saturday; and

WHEREAS, the subject portion of the above listed streets are no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours and the street closures are necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use those portions of the streets during the closures; 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 Items A, B, and C 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; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency approves Item B 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, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency approves Item C 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 March 19, 2024.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency