

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO: 10.2

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Streets

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Approving three Roadway Shared Spaces street closure applications by local businesses for: (A) 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month; (B) Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily; and (C) Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily; 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.
- Carol Lau of Sunset Mercantile, Will Sanders of Bix, and Hector Will Herrera of Harlan Records have applied for the proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closures to close 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, and Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, respectively, to vehicular traffic part time.
- 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-m.extnل.sfgov.org/SharedLinks.aspx?accesskey=bc61363c7effb77e5715d781677a071ae265f0cdbf27c18bd9d91b3402e0900a&VaultGUID=A4A7DACD-B0DC-4322-BD29-F6F07103C6E0>

APPROVALS:

DIRECTOR



DATE

April 9, 2025

SECRETARY



April 9, 2025

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: April 15, 2025

PURPOSE

Approving three Roadway Shared Spaces street closure applications by local businesses for: (A) 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month; (B) Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily; and (C) Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily; 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

Secondhand Saturdays Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure

Sunset Mercantile is a local events producer with a mission to connect community and commerce through festive, family-friendly events. Secondhand Saturdays is one of Sunset Mercantile’s signature events. It is a curated flea market with vintage clothing vendors, makers, and artists, accompanied by live music and food vendors. Sunset Mercantile has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which would close 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets to vehicular traffic from Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month. This closure was originally permitted under the pandemic era Shared Spaces program in 2020. Since April 2023, Sunset Mercantile was granted a permit under the permanent Roadway Shared Spaces program. This current application is a renewal of Sunset Mercantile’s previous Roadway Shared Spaces permit and proposes no changes to their closure footprint and setup.

Bix Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure

Bix is a restaurant on Gold Street in the Jackson Square area. Gold Street is a narrow one-way alley running eastbound parallel to and north of Jackson Street, between Montgomery and Sansome streets, with an intersecting narrow alley, Balance Street, providing northbound access from Jackson Street to Gold Street. Bix has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which

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would close Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets to vehicular traffic from Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily. This closure was originally permitted under the pandemic era Shared Spaces program beginning in 2020. Since April 2023, Bix was granted a permit under the permanent Roadway Shared Spaces program. This current application is a renewal of Bix's previous Roadway Shared Spaces permit and proposes no changes to their closure footprint and setup.

Harlan Records Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure

Harlan Records is a cocktail bar located in the Union Square area. Harlan Records has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit which would close Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane to vehicular traffic from Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily. 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. Since 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 proposes an earlier start time of 11 am instead of the previous 2 pm and no changes to their closure footprint and setup.

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

- 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month; and
- Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily; and
- Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily.

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. Staff has found that, based upon a determination of public convenience and necessity, that the subject portions of 37th Avenue, Gold Street, and Harlan Place 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 closures. Staff recommends the Board make these findings and approve the street closures as discussed below.

ITEMS

The following items were considered at a Public Hearing held on March 13, 2025, by the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month.

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Item A would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for Sunset Mercantile for vendor market events.

- B. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily.

Item B would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for Bix for outdoor dining.

- C. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily.

Item C would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for Harlan Records for outdoor dining.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Item A was considered at a Public Hearing held on March 13, 2025, by ISCOTT. No public comments were received at the hearing. In advance of the hearing, ISCOTT received a letter of support from the principal of neighboring A.P. Giannini Middle School.

Item B was considered at a Public Hearing held on March 13, 2025, by ISCOTT. No public comments were received at the hearing. In advance of the hearing, ISCOTT received one letter of support from tenants of a neighboring office building.

Item C was considered at a Public Hearing held on March 13, 2025, by ISCOTT. No public comments were received at the hearing.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The details of the proposed closures presented in Items A, B, and C are as requested by the applicants. The alternative would be to not grant the Roadway Shared Spaces permits, which may negatively affect the local economy by not activating the streets for events and outdoor dining.

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. The applicants for Items A, B, and C have each paid an application fee of \$1,245 for applications submitted more than 120 days before the first event.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On April 19, 2021, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the Shared Spaces

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Program (Case No. 2021-003010ENV), inclusive of Items A and 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 Items A, B, and C was held at the March 13, 2025 meeting of ISCOTT.

The City Attorney has reviewed this item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve three Roadway Shared Spaces street closure applications by local businesses for: (A) 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month; (B) Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily; and (C) Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily; and making environmental review findings.

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has received applications from Carol Lau of Sunset Mercantile, Will Sanders of Bix, and Hector Will Herrera of Harlan Records for Roadway Shared Spaces street closure as follows:

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – 37th Avenue between Ortega and Pacheco streets, Saturday, April 19, 2025, through Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, every third Saturday of each month;
- B. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Gold Street between Montgomery and Balance streets, Friday, May 16, 2025, through Saturday, May 16, 2026, 4:30 pm to 11:59 pm, daily;
- C. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Harlan Place between Grant Avenue and Mark Lane, Sunday, May 25, 2025, through Sunday, May 24, 2026, 11 am to 1:30 am, daily; 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, That 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 the application by Carol Lau of Sunset Mercantile for 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 the application by Will Sanders of the Bix Restaurant for 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 the application by Hector Will Herrera of Harlan Records for 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 April 15, 2025.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency