



Re: Support for a permanently car-free JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought considerable hardship, we have also learned the importance of adapting spaces to meet the needs of our community. In its [Temporary to Transformative Report](#), SPUR called for a redesigned network of streets that takes cars out of our parks and prioritizes cyclists and pedestrians. SPUR strongly supports fully incorporating JFK Drive into Golden Gate Park and keeping it a permanently car-free zone.

SPUR is a member-supported nonprofit organization that brings people together from across the political spectrum to develop solutions to the big problems our cities face.

We support car-free JFK Drive because it has quickly become one of the city's most used and well-liked public spaces. Over 7 million people have visited car-free JFK Drive since April 2020, and 72% of the over 10,000 respondents to a survey conducted by the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority and San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department supported keeping JFK Drive car-free. At all times of the week, you see people from all walks of life – from newborns in strollers to seniors using walkers – enjoying this space. Prior to the pandemic, over 75% of drivers on the street were not even visiting the park - they were using it as a cut-through. Now JFK Drive is a real destination. With all the great challenges we face as a city, car-free JFK Drive provides us with an opportunity to make permanent a great space where people can just have fun.

San Francisco has pledged to be a carbon neutral city by 2045. One of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions is vehicle trips. In order to achieve our climate goals, San Francisco must take steps to encourage biking, walking, and public transportation. Thousands of people visit Golden Gate Park each year, and making JFK Drive car-free would ensure more carbon free trips

In addition to pledging carbon neutrality, San Francisco has adopted the Vision Zero policy, committing to making streets safer and preventing traffic related deaths. Creating spaces like car free JFK advance Vision Zero.



We acknowledge the real concerns that some have brought up regarding maintaining access to the park and its institutions, especially for people with disabilities and historically underserved communities. However, we believe that there are solutions to provide access to the park and its institutions for all, particularly if the safety and access improvements proposed by SFMTA and Rec-Park are implemented, and the underutilized Music Concourse Garage is managed more efficiently and equitably.

SPUR strongly urges the City and County of San Francisco to keep JFK Drive permanently car-free for the public health, environmental and civic well-being of our residents for years to come.

Sincerely,

Nick Josefowitz, Chief Policy Officer
Sujata Srivastava, San Francisco Director