

**Kathy Kleinbaum**

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**Subject:** FW: Support for Pedestrianized Downtown

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**From:** David Light <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 3:51 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Subject:** Support for Pedestrianized Downtown

Dear Mayor Rodriguez and San Mateo City Council,

I recently saw some exciting news reports around the idea of continuing to maintain B Street as a pedestrian only street, even after the pandemic has passed. To me, this is a terrific idea. It would be nice to expand the plaza area currently in front of the movie theater and expand it into B Street so that there is a large pedestrian only brick or tiled mall area with restaurants, benches, kiosks, small food booths and booths with other vendors. It would be great if the new downtown pedestrian mall extended from the old Talbot Toy building to the old Trags grocery store. This expanded mall would really improve downtown and increase the value of the new and existing condominiums and businesses under construction.

An attractive downtown mall would create a unique destination in downtown San Mateo that will set it apart from other cities on the peninsula. The downtown plan in Redwood City has really improved their downtown. I would like to see a similar approach in San Mateo, or even better!

Thank you!

- David Light  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Larry Para](#)  
**To:** [Kathy Kleinbaum](#)  
**Subject:** B street closure  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 7:38:40 AM

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Ms Kleinbaum

I am a 19 year resident of the city of San Mateo. One of the few positives to the pandemic has been the closure of B street and the outdoor dining on multiple streets. With the hope that by the end of 2021 the pandemic is over I hope the city of San Mateo will give serious consideration to making the closure of B street between 3rd and Baldwin permanent. The Cinemark cinema is a natural gathering spot and with the numerous restaurants and bars having a large open area to dine and stroll is very nice. In the summer such a closure could also facilitate small outdoor concerts or other events. Please give serious consideration to making the closure permanent and the creation of a pedestrian mall.

I would also request that the parklets on streets such as 3rd and 4th be permitted as requested by specific restaurants. San Mateo's weather facilitates outdoor dining nearly year round and could benefit the city by attracting people to the numerous bars and restaurants downtown

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely  
Larry Para



**From:** [Patrice Olds](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Chen](#); [Kathy Kleinbaum](#)  
**Subject:** FW: B Street  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 2:15:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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**Patrice M. Olds, MMC**

City Clerk | City of San Mateo

330 W. 20th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403

650-522-7042 | [polds@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:polds@cityofsanmateo.org)

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**From:** Tim Elliott <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 2:07 PM

**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rick Bonilla <RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>; Joe Goethals <jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org>

**Subject:** B Street

One of the few upsides to the COVID world we live in would seem to be the closing of B Street to vehicular traffic. It's so lovely to be able to stroll the several blocks and enjoy all that's there.

I hope the City Council will consider making this closure permanent.

Thank you

Tim Elliott

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Rick Bonilla](#)  
**To:** [Drew Corbett](#); [Azalea Mitch](#); [Kathy Kleinbaum](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please close B Street to car traffic permanently  
**Date:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:50:30 PM

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Hi,

I received this letter today.

Rick Bonilla  
Deputy Mayor, City of San Mateo

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**From:** Red Daly <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:28:58 AM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Please close B Street to car traffic permanently

Dear City Council,

We have enjoyed walking in downtown San Mateo while B Street has been closed to vehicles. Please make this change permanent and consider closing even more streets.

Also, a lot of alleyways are underused and would make for decent dedicated bike paths.

Sincerely,  
Red Daly

[REDACTED]

**From:** Myra Anderson <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:28 AM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Downtown Street Closure

Good Morning,

I would kindly request that we continue to close the streets in Downtown and allow restaurants to expand their outdoor dining seating.

This outdoor dining option has allowed friends and families a way to meet up that is safe and yet very fun! It allows the diner to enjoy the outdoors and amazing food/drinks. To revoke this option would be a great disappointment.

Kind Regards,  
Myra Anderson

**From:** Anne Moser <anne@backhausbread.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:21 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Street Closures in Downtown San Mateo

Honorable Council Members:

First, I would like to thank you for inviting the community's input on the matter of introducing semi-permanent or permanent street closures in downtown San Mateo.

I would like to reiterate my support for permanent downtown street closures, preferable exceeding B-Street, since the businesses on B-Street are predominately busy in the evenings and the daytime closure does not benefit them quite as much. Other businesses, for example on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, who have more daytime business, would benefit from street closures, too, especially cafes such as ours, art galleries, retail stores, and street closures for events, such as farmers markets, etc., could potentially attract more retail businesses to fill some of the currently empty retail spaces. A more diverse landscape of retail businesses (not just predominately evening / dinner-type food businesses) would in my opinion bring more foot traffic to downtown.

One obvious concern is the availability of ample parking close to the start points of the respective street closures. With more businesses reopening, parking is likely to become more scarce again.

I would also like to applaud the approval of the permanent parklet program. Backhaus as a business would love to participate in a public parklet program like the one in San Francisco (parklet seating is public and not only available to customers) or a "private" business-specific parklet program.

Thank you all for serving our community.

Warmest regards,

Anne Moser

**BACKHAUS**  
ARTISAN BREAD AND PASTRIES

Anne Moser | Co-Owner, Head Baker

(650) 808-0360

[www.backhausbread.com](http://www.backhausbread.com)

From: Katie Boyd <>  
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 5:18 PM  
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
Subject: B street closure

Just wanted to write a note to say how much I enjoy the closure of B street. Really looking forward to dining out there this summer (we've not gotten to yet), and in the meantime I've enjoyed it as a pedestrian & jogger and while picking up take out.

Thanks!!

Katie Antheil Boyd

**From:** Michelle C. <>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 5:59 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Comments about the Downtown Street Closures

Hello,

I was informed that the City Council will review that status of Street Closures on May 17th.

I'd like to submit comments about this topic.

Please continue to keep these streets closed for pedestrians and businesses. I am still concerned for my health during this pandemic and do not like to eat indoors despite our orange tier status. I will continue to patron restaurants that have an outdoor seating option. Closed streets in the busiest places of our downtown will also allow me to continue social distancing rather than have to walk crowded sidewalks if the streets are given back to the cars. Furthermore, restaurant businesses have invested a lot of money to construct these outdoor seats and they should enjoy the return on investment for years to come.

Please take my comments into consideration when reviewing this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Chang

**From:** Karen Duffy < >

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 5:24 PM

**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

**Subject:** Outdoor Dining In San Mateo

I would vote "no" for the extension of outdoor seating in San Mateo. A majority of the restaurants have made the city feel dirty and rundown. I do not dine down there at all, and I have lived here for 20 years.

It also takes away from the smaller shops that once existed and the lack of parking just does not make it feasible to continue.

The only place that has done a nice job is Wursthall. They keep it clean, sanitized, and inviting to want to eat there, but I would still not continue this any longer.

Karen Duffy Simons

**From:** Tracy Fung <>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 12:20 AM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** B street closure

I live in San Mateo and I would like to voice how much I have enjoyed and valued the closure of Bstreet for outdoor business space allowing a more inviting and safe space for families.

With B street open for pedestrians the sidewalks are less crowded and it allows me to let my excited 2 yr old run more freely.

Driving through downtown is actually easier now with BStreet closed since it relieves the traffic jams that build up as drivers try to turn into the busy street.

I sincerely hope the city of San Mateo can see the value of permanently closing off BStreet for use as adding huge value to the community.

Tracy Fung

**From:** Ruti Gur < >

**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 7:19 PM

**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

**Subject:** Street Closures in Downtown

I would like to say how much my kids, my family and friends and neighbors, and myself, enjoy the street closures in downtown, in each town :)  
Please keep them forever!

Thank you, Ruth

From: Steve Lesley <>  
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:04 PM  
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
Subject: Outdoor restaurants

We supported the outdoor dining in downtown San Mateo during the pandemic because we wanted to support them and we prefer going out to dinner, especially on weekends. However, it is usually cold and windy and uncomfortable even under a heater anytime of the year. Therefore I would rather see all indoor dining only and open the street and parking back up.

Steve Lesley

**From:** Gene McKenna <>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 3:54 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Block B Street Permanently

Please give space back to humans permanently. It is so nice to stroll B Street with no traffic. It brings me downtown. It opens my wallet. Please make it permanent so businesses and the community can invest in more attractive infrastructure befitting our community. We are falling behind neighboring cities for attractive, functional, walkable downtowns.

Gene McKenna

From: Ruth P <  
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:10 AM  
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
Subject: Downtown San Mateo street closures

Hi,

I am in support of keeping the downtown San Mateo street closures and outdoor dining spaces permanent. We live within walking distance of downtown San Mateo and have been downtown more often since the closures started. My family and I have enjoyed eating outside and it had been easier to take my 2 year old daughter out to eat since she can be distracted by all the outdoor activity. San Mateo has always had perfect weather and outdoor seating options were always limited before the pandemic. It's nice to finally have those options. Please keep the outdoor seating arrangements permanent.

It would be nice to mark some spaces for the delivery drivers so it is easier for them to pick up food.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Palmeri

**From:** Sarco's Lock Works <sarcoslockworks@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:57 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Downtown Street Closure and Parking Issues - Baldwin Avenue

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the owner of a small family owned locksmith business at 306 Baldwin Avenue in San Mateo. As with other businesses, Covid hurt my retail business too.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I had to close the business for two months. Then, I partially opened up the doors during limited days and hours. The parking on my side of the street was blocked to accommodate the outdoor dining for the two restaurants at each end of the block: ¼ of the street was occupied by "31<sup>st</sup> Union" while "Wursthall" occupied the rest of the block as well as part of B Street along its storefront. My customers were able to park across the street. Several months later, due to the construction at the Trag's site, customers lost their opportunity to park not only across the street, but also on Ellsworth Avenue and on B. Street. I want to bring to your attention that currently, there are two construction/renovation projects taking place within the block. At least two trucks are parked from morning until around 3pm on Ellsworth at the two 24 minute parking spots daily in front of "31<sup>st</sup> Union" with a worker inside, probably counting the trucks at the construction site of the Trag's location. Behind these and across the streets, trucks are parked the whole day for the renovation happening at 250 Baldwin Avenue. Those trucks don't move the entire day. Our customers are complaining that they have to tour around for 15 minutes to find a parking spot to have a key made. It takes 2-3 minutes to cut a key. Who would want to search for a parking spot for 15 minutes for a 2 minute errand?

Recently, "31<sup>st</sup> Union" has closed its doors. "Wursthall" extended its outdoor dining area and is currently occupying the whole block on Baldwin along with the B Street store front for outdoor dining. There are two 24 minute parking meters in front of 302/306 Baldwin Avenue. Can the city please strongly consider releasing those two spots for customer parking? These spots should be reserved for customer parking only and not for construction use. There are no meter maids patrolling the area.

Thank you for your consideration. Please help us and other small retailers stay in business in downtown San Mateo. You may reach me via email at [sarcoslockworks@yahoo.com](mailto:sarcoslockworks@yahoo.com) or [sarcoslock@gmail.com](mailto:sarcoslock@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Sarkis Kestekyan  
Sarco's Lock Works

**From:** Susan < >

**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 6:18 PM

**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

**Subject:** B Street Closure

Please continue with B-St. Closure!! I am a downtown resident for 30 years, and this last year has been excellent with traffic. Traffic has grown so out of control within these last five (5) years!! It feels good to walk around downtown without constantly worrying about getting hit!! A FYI: San Mateo Dr. has become a mini highway! Majority of the drivers do not look out for pedestrians.

Thank you.

**From:** Tom Taber <>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 10:23 AM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Cc:** Tom Taber <>  
**Subject:** Keeping parts of B Street closed to traffic.

My wife and I support permanently keeping parts of B Street closed to motor traffic. We enjoy outdoor dining, and we like to be able to bring our dog, Sparky, when we dine out. In fact, we are planning on eating at the new Mexican restaurant on B Street tonight. I have attached a few photos I took on B Street.

Sincerely,  
Tom Taber



**From:** Maggie Trinh < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:06 AM

**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

**Subject:** Street Closures

Hello,

As a resident of San Mateo I am writing to strongly support continuing the street closures. It is great for having a community space, pedestrian safety, and encouraging walking and biking instead of driving. I would love to see an expansion of this program.

Thank you,

Maggie Trinh

**From:** [Jack Wang](#)  
**To:** [Kathy Kleinbaum](#)  
**Subject:** I would like to voice my support for B Street Closure to cars  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:10:25 AM

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Hi Kathy:

I just wanted to send you a message voicing my support for a semi-permanent to permanent closure of B Street to cars. I think the COVID-19 shutdown gives San Mateo a unique opportunity to create a family-friendly, walkable, European-style "plaza" (or "piazza", as they say in Italy).

Imagine families, strollers, children, pets, and open-air cafes, people dining and socializing during the day, and even live music & outdoor entertainment at night. San Mateo has one of the most diverse culinary ecosystems of any city on the Peninsula. Closing B Street to cars and putting tables & umbrellas in the street to enable outdoor dining would make San Mateo an attraction.

If there's anything I can do to voice my support of B Street closure, please let me know. I've been a San Mateo resident for 11 years. We can't miss out on this golden opportunity to transform downtown San Mateo.

best,

Jack Wang  
KZSU 90.1FM Stanford  
Assistant Chief Engineer  


**From:** Ming-Hsuan Wu <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:53 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Street closure for B street in San Mateo

Hello!

I live in downtown San Mateo and totally agree to close the street and allow outdoor dining!

1. Love having the option to be in the fresh air!
2. Feels safer distance with people
3. The street is thriving!!!

I Love this concept and there are plenty of parking spaces around downtown!

Thank you!  
Michelle Wu