

From: Mireia Duaso <
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Downtown Street Closures

To whom it may concern,

I would like to share that I really like the Downtown street closures, I would love to see it permanent. I think people can enjoy our city even more with this set up and it might be a boost for restaurants that have been struggling during the pandemic to offer both options (indoors - if appropriate with the virus - and outdoors).

Thank you very much.
Yours faithfully,

Mireia Duaso Bellido

From: Joey Devoto < >

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:50 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Street Closures

The pandemic forced us to make many changes for the sake of safety accommodations, but sometimes people realized that these accommodations are actually worth keeping around. Examples include higher unemployment benefits and remote work options.

Another one has been slow or closed streets. In a country that is built almost exclusively for the automobile it is not a major sacrifice to give a few streets back to the people, since as it has shown a street without cars is a street for everyone else. This has already been a trend in cities around the world from Barcelona to our own San Francisco. But it was hard to get the ball rolling in smaller San Mateo. The pandemic changed that and forced our hand and go figure, it turned out fine.

I go to downtown both as a driver and a pedestrian so I've been on both perspectives here. B Street's closure did not majorly impact me as a driver. It did, however, greatly benefit me as a pedestrian. I hope we can continue this program and start mixing up how we do streets in San Mateo.

From: Liz Hall <
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Downtown Street Closures

Dear City Council,

I am strongly in favor of continuing the downtown street closures. It has been a delight to walk downtown and see the community using the street to eat, walk their dogs, or just relax. The closed streets also promote safety for pedestrians and encouragement for a walking and biking friendly downtown, which I'd like to see more of as well.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Hall
San Mateo Resident and Homeowner

From: Raayan Zarandian Mohtashemi < >

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:49 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: May 17th city council meeting public comment, agenda items 12 & 13

Agenda Item #12: Street Closures

I strongly urge the council to direct the city to not only adopt all existing temporary street closures as permanent, but to explore more street closures such as on 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue in downtown. San Mateo has adopted a vision zero policy, and should work to implement this policy. This includes creating stress-free, open public streets free of the worry of being hit by cars. On most of our streets, kids cannot play safely. We should make streets where community members can in the long-term interact, ride bikes safely, recreate safely, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing car dependence.

From: Jon New < >

Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 2:33 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please keep and expand street closures.

Hi City Council,

I have thoroughly enjoyed our downtown street closures, and I would love to see them become permanent mainstays. These blocks are significantly safer for pedestrians, and the outdoor dining options have greatly increased the vitality and liveliness of downtown. I can only imagine how much fun it'll be when the pandemic is comfortably behind us, especially if we're able to add additional events like festivals or farmer's markets.

I would like to see an expansion of the street closures if possible. Farther south on B st, or sections of 2nd, 3rd, or 4th would be likely candidates as well.

Thanks again!

Jonathan New
San Mateo resident

From: Kolja Schluetter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Outdoor Dining San Mateo

Hi all,

I wanted to give some community input for the current plans around parklets and outdoor dining in San Mateo downtown.

The outdoor dining setups and street closures should be kept under all circumstances and even be expanded.

This can help to transform San Mateo downtown to a more walkable and interesting Peninsula downtown and help our small business community with pre-covid financial recoveries.

Certain design standards around permanent parklets would certainly be appreciated. An ideal end goal for certain streets in the downtown area would be a modernized street look (similar as in Burlingame Ave) including streets closures and large outdoor seating. This would not only be consistent with a more environmental friendly city approach, but also encourage people to walk and bike more.

This is a win for all residents and businesses alike.

Best, Kolja

--

Kolja Schluetter
General Partner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Zlata Vernon <>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:04 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Street closures

I'm for the street closures, however, there are parking spaces being taken up in front of some restaurants that are not using them and I'd like to see those spaces restored.

Thanks-

Zlata Vernon

From: Heather Wolnick < >

Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 4:36 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Street Closures in Downtown

Dear City Council:

I'm writing in support of any and all street closures in downtown San Mateo. My husband and I have been enjoying lunch downtown over the past few months and it is such a pleasure to have B Street closed. We have eaten outside on other streets that are still open and also enjoyed that, but not quite as much. The noise and smell of passing cars is a nuisance, but on B Street that isn't a problem.

I have 5 and 3 year old sons and we can't take them to indoor dining, which has prevented us from family dinners downtown. However, if there were an outdoor dining situation with a closed street where they can move around, we would be downtown for dinner much more often.

I am in favor of creating a large pedestrian and bike friendly stretch of downtown. I have often thought this is what our downtown is missing, in fact missing in most peninsula cities. Pre-pandemic, we used to go to San Carlos for the downtown farmer's market where the main street was closed once a weekend. We would shop for produce, stop at the bookstore for story time and then get ice cream or lunch. I would really like to have something like this in San Mateo!!

I would rather it be permanent, but I would also support closing a large stretch on the weekends.

It would be really nice to expand the closure and have a stretch similar to what was closed for the centennial celebration a couple of years ago with tables in the street for take out and activities for the kids.

Also, why are our streets so slanted? I assume it has something to do with drainage, but it is very awkward for the temporary outdoor dining. It's also awkward for biking and parking.

Sincerely,
Heather Wolnick

The following comments were
received after the 4pm
deadline on the day of the
meeting:

From: Madeline Frechette < >

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:26 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Agenda Item 12- Street Closures

San Mateo's willingness to experiment with street closures has been one of the silver linings over the past year during this pandemic. As a patron and shopper living nearby, I've visited the San Mateo downtown area much more than ever before because of these street closures. The ability to walk around without the fear of being hit by a driver is a type of freedom offered to more people when we open them up to people first, and I can't imagine taking that freedom away now. I am strongly urging city council to adopt all existing temporary street closures as permanent, and to explore more streets suitable as well, especially those prone to traffic collisions.

From: Germaine Norwood < >

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 5:14 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: downtown street closures

Dear Sirs:

I would like to see the streets closed from 5/1-10/31 each year. These are the warmest months and would give people an opportunity to sit outside at restaurants. However, there should be some standards. It should not look derelict. There should be standards imposed that the outdoor structures be safe and look nice. They should represent how proud we are to live in San Mateo, not just something thrown up. In 2020 restaurants just needed to stay alive so lack of standards was an accommodation. We appreciate that. Now we should want to attract people to come to our downtown. Just look at the Little Sichuan restaurant opposite Draeagars with ripped tarps and you will understand what I mean. I do not think Burlingame would allow that "eye sore" to be allowed. Owners would not have to necessarily spend a lot of money if the months are limited when it is warmer but I could also understand if they want to have them open 12 months. Some people will sit outside in December and January but most will not even under a space heater.

Thanks for listening,

Germaine Norwood