

January 23, 2022

Mayor London Breed  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Director Jeffrey Tumlin, SFMTA and SFMTA Board of Directors  
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, SF Recreation and Park  
SF Recreation and Park Commission

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

Dear Mayor London Breed, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, SFMTA Director Jeffrey Tumlin, SFMTA Board of Directors, SF Recreation and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg, and the SF Recreation and Park Commission:

The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) Board of Directors voted to support making the current car-free space on JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park permanent at our January board meeting.

Thanks to the legacy of the Central Freeway, Hayes Valley is well-acquainted with the safety, noise, and pollution caused by car traffic. We believe it's important that the city make some spaces free of these problems, where people of all ages and abilities are able to get around safely without a car — including and especially in our parks, the one place where our residents can take refuge from the noise, pollution, and, too often, risk to their health and safety from car traffic.

Solutions like car-free JFK make alternatives to driving easier and safer, while making the park experience more pleasant for most visitors. Park visitors who bike, walk, or take transit to the park in turn reduce the congestion on our streets and reduce our city's contributions to the climate crisis from auto emissions.

Survey results show that our neighborhood highly values this space. Among respondents to SFMTA/RPD's Golden Gate Park Access & Safety Program survey from zip code 94102, which includes all of Hayes Valley as well as our neighbors in the Western Addition, Civic Center, and the Tenderloin, 88% support making JFK Drive permanently car-free. Every group of respondents by income level and by race/ethnicity gave at least 65% support in favor of making JFK Drive permanently car-free.

Car-free JFK Drive provides something our city and our residents need: a promenade that prioritizes health and safety in our largest open space. We fully support making it permanent.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Laska, President  
The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association

cc: Mark Stephenson, HVNA Vice President  
Barbara Early, HVNA Corresponding Secretary  
Lloyd Silverstein, HVNA Merchants Group Chairperson