




MEMORANDUM

To: Members, San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission

From: Tom Maguire, Director of Streets Division
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency 

Date: May 25, 2023

Subject: Conversion of a Section of John Shelley Drive into a Pedestrian and Bicycle Promenade by Restricting Private Vehicle Access

At the request of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) staff, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) staff, via this letter, is commenting on the proposed restriction of vehicular access to a segment of John Shelley Drive in John McLaren Park, and its transformation into non-vehicular promenade with access to bicycles and pedestrians.

John Shelley Drive is a 1.25-mile-long circular vehicular roadway within RPD-owned John McLaren Park. The road in its entirety is under the jurisdiction of RPD. The roadway forms a loop starting at Mansell Street on the eastern side of the park, looping north with an intersection at Cambridge Street, and continuing west and turning south, returning to Mansell Street on the western side of the park.

The segment of John Shelley Drive proposed to become a promenade is 2,100-foot-long (0.4 mile) and is located between the Field of Dogs dog play area near Mansell Street, and the northern entrance to the Upper Reservoir Parking Lot. This is a low vehicular traffic roadway, seeing fewer than 350 vehicles per day on weekdays, based on recent traffic counts performed in 2015. In addition, this segment of roadway only provides access to locations within the park and does not connect to the road network outside of the park. As such, the restriction of vehicle access will have no significant impacts on local vehicle or transit circulation while serving to promote walking and biking in the park.

RPD and SFMTA staff will work together to ensure that street signage and barriers on the proposed promenade will comply with all relevant guidelines, including the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and will adequately inform drivers that the segment of roadway is not accessible by vehicles and is only open to walking, biking, rolling and other active transportation modes.

As such, SFMTA staff do not object to the creation of the Shelley Promenade in John McLaren Park.