



PERMITSF REFORMING CITY PERMITTING PROCESSES



PermitSF

Item 5

BOS File 260294 – Temporary Street Use Permits and Closures

PermitSF aims to drive meaningful reform through structural changes, making it easier, more cost-effective, transparent, and efficient for businesses and property owners to secure the permits they need.



Proposal: Simplify special event permitting for street closures

- Allow administrative permit issuance by San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) for certain special events
- All permits continue to be reviewed by respective departments (SFFD, SFPD, etc.)
- Eligible events must:
 - Be contained within three blocks
 - Keep intersections open
 - Not require rerouting of Muni vehicles

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- Improve applicant experience by eliminating the need to attend and present at a scheduled public hearing at the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT)
- Expedite special event permitting review through administrative permit issuance
- Shorten ISCOTT hearings to focus on complex special events that require additional coordination and public input

“Our Ford Street block festival takes less than a minute to approve during an ISCOTT hearing yet requires multiple neighbors to stay on standby during a long virtual meeting,” said Carolyn Thomas, organizer of the Ford Street Block Party. “Shifting simple events to administrative approval is a welcome change that makes community gatherings easier to organize—and easier for the city to manage.”

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This proposal would streamline special event permitting for an estimated 80-90% of applicants

- Block parties
- Short Halloween streets
- Community events (ex: Dia de los Libros)
- Farmer’s markets
- Greater Downtown Activation Zones



Note: Roadway Shared Spaces permit holders with longer term event closures are ineligible as their events must be approved by the SFMTA Board of Directors. Temporary events taking place in Roadway Shared Spaces locations may qualify for administrative review.

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This proposal is one of several improvements to special event permitting

- PermitSF permitting system – a centralized special event intake application
- Special event permitting concierge service
- Site Plan templates for Greater Downtown Activations to show applicants how they can meet Fire and Entertainment permit conditions

City and County of San Francisco, CA

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Welcome to PermitSF

Digital permitting services for San Francisco.

Search for something like "Fire sprinkler permit" or "Fire alarm permit"

Annie Plaza event pre-application package

Public Works

Annie Street (between Market Street and Stevenson Street)
Community Benefit District (CBD): Yerba Buena Partnership

This site plan template is meant to serve as a guide for fire safety and emergency access. A minimum 5-foot clearance shall be maintained around and under all SFFD infrastructure, including fire hydrants, fire escapes, fire stand pipes, and the clear access path or fire lane, at all times. Lightweight tables and chairs are permitted provided required clearances are maintained and items are movable.

Department of Building Inspection (DBI)
sidewalk, windows permit

Special Events
Special event permit pre-application form

Explore