Chair Melgar, Vice Chair Preston, and Member Peskin,

We urge you to support the ordinance before you — sponsored by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Walton — to restrict private vehicle access on a portion of John Shelley Drive in McLaren Park (informally known as Shelley Promenade) and send it to the full Board of Supervisors with a positive recommendation.

Similar to JFK Promenade and Great Highway Park, the car-free portion of Shelley Drive has become a refuge for people to gather, connect with family and friends, recreate, improve their health, and learn how to use active transportation like bikes, scooters, and skateboards, particularly for children, seniors, and people living with disabilities. This ordinance helps ensure that San Franciscans in all parts of the city have easy access to safe and joyous car-free spaces.

Thank you to Mayor Breed and Supervisor Walton for sponsoring this ordinance, and to the Recreation Parks Department staff who worked tirelessly to create this public space, engage the public, and make improvements to an already great park space.

We urge you to support the ordinance before you, and send it to the full Board of Supervisors with a positive recommendation.

Sincerely,

Friends of Great Highway Park

From:	Luke Bornheimer
To:	Melgar, Myrna (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS)
Cc:	Major, Erica (BOS); Board of Supervisors (BOS); Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Walton, Shamann (BOS); Stokle, Brian (REC); Ginsburg, Phil (REC); Commission, Recpark (REC); MTABoard@sfmta.com; PROSAC, RPD (REC); cac@sfmta.com
Subject:	Please support restricting private vehicle access to a portion of Shelley Drive (aka Shelley Promenade)
Date:	Sunday, October 1, 2023 12:34:49 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Chair Melgar, Vice Chair Preston, and Member Peskin,

I urge you to support the ordinance before you — sponsored by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Walton — to restrict private vehicle access on a portion of John Shelley Drive in McLaren Park (informally known as Shelley Promenade) and send it to the full Board of Supervisors with a positive recommendation.

Similar to Car-Free JFK Promenade and Great Highway Park, the car-free portion of Shelley Drive has been a refuge for people to gather, connect with family and friends, recreate, improve their health, and learn how to use active transportation like bikes, scooters, and skateboards, particularly for children, seniors, and people living with disabilities.

The creation and preservation of this space has been one of the silver linings from the COVID Pandemic, it has enhanced our city, and its approval as a permanent space for people will make our city a more sustainable and livable place for people of all ages and abilities, especially those who cannot or do not use a car including children and many seniors, people living with disabilities, and low-income individuals.

We face a roadway safety crisis, a climate crisis, and a public health crisis, and car-free spaces like this portion of Shelley Drive help the City make progress towards addressing those crises. Supporting this ordinance will help us take action towards addressing the crises, and you are in the unique position to help make it a permanent space for people. Please take this opportunity to lead for our people, city, and planet.

Thank you to Mayor Breed and Supervisor Walton for sponsoring this ordinance, and to the Recreation Parks Department staff who worked to tirelessly to create this public space, engage the public, and make improvements — previous and proposed — to an already great space. This space wouldn't be possible without the City staff who made it a reality and have continued to work on it, so I want to extend a special thanks to them and hope they are recognized for their extraordinary work.

I urge you to support the ordinance before you — sponsored by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Walton — to restrict private vehicle access on a portion of John Shelley Drive in McLaren Park, and send it to the full Board of Supervisors with a positive recommendation.

Thank you, and please take care,
Luke Bornheimer | Sustainable Transportation Advocate | Linkedin | 617-899-4487

From:	Simone Manganelli
To:	MelgarStaff (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); PrestonStaff (BOS)
Cc:	Carroll, John (BOS)
Subject:	Vote YES to car-free Shelley Drive on Oct 2, Item 1 on the Land Use and Transportation Committee Regular Agenda
Date:	Thursday, September 28, 2023 8:14:11 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Sup. Melgar, Sup. Peskin, Sup. Preston —

With climate change continuing unabated and the COVID pandemic still infecting thousands of people, San Francisco needs to continue prioritizing car-free spaces for the health of our residents and of our environment.

That's why I am asking you to vote YES to establish Shelley Drive in McLaren Park as a *permanent* car free space at the Land Use Committee on Oct 2.

Frankly, there should be a car free promenade in *every* neighborhood: Market, Embarcadero, Castro, Chestnut, Judah, Columbus, and Third Streets should all be made completely car-free, prioritizing transit, walking, biking, and paratransit. We need to be getting cars OFF the road, and the only way to do that is to be forward-looking and making our streets dramatically safer. The only way to do that is to *eliminate* cars.

At the same time, paratransit services for disabled people need to be expanded and prioritized not only for Shelley Drive, but also JFK and other car-free spaces. Dedicating more money to transit and establishing more frequent service to underserved neighborhoods would also help all San Franciscans access parks and safe walking spaces with clean air.

But for now, a permanent car-free Shelley Drive is a small step forward for this essential vision. Please vote YES.

— Simone Manganelli
Resident, District 8

May 25, 2023

Re: Walk SF Support for Permanent Car-Free Space in McLaren Park

To: San Francisco Park and Recreation Commissioners Mark Buell, Kat Anderson, Laurence Griffin, Joe Hallisy, Annie-Jupiter-Jones, Vanita Louie, and Larry Mazzola

Dear President Buell and Park and Recreation Commissioners,

Walk San Francisco would like to share our wholehearted endorsement of making permanent the car-free space in McLaren Park on Shelley Drive.

Car-free spaces support the City's Vision Zero policy and climate goals, and also make our parks even safer and more welcoming for all ages and abilities.

Every day, an average of three people are hit while walking in San Francisco. Parks can and should be a refuge from dangerous vehicle traffic. The popularity of the car-free space on Shelley Drive speaks for itself in terms of the need, which will only grow over time as more discover it.

As Commissioners, you can continue to put San Francisco on the cutting edge of supporting health, safety, recreation, and clean air for everyone in our parks.

Sincerely,

Jodie Medeiros, Executive Director
Walk San Francisco

From:	TRILCE & CHARLES
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	Shelley Promenade Proposal: from Upper Reservoir Parking Lot to Field of Dogs
Date:	Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:46:54 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Recreation & Park Commissioners,

Since Shelley Drive was closed McLaren Park has had less crime and less dumping. Like JFK Blvd, the street will become more user friendly and family friendly once it's permanently closed. It's really a win-win. Cars can still access the reservoir, the Redwood Grove Playground and the Field of Dogs. As far as I know, no one is against the closure.

Sincerely,

Chuck Farrugia
- President of Help McLaren Park Group

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Help McLaren Park
Facebook - Help McLaren Park
https://www.helpmclarenpark.org
https://www.facebook.com/JohnMcLarenPark
www.helpmlpark.weebly.com

Petition · Bring Horses Back to McLaren Park - Change.org

Member of the SF Parks Alliance

From:	Karen Tsai
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	In support of Shelley Drive becoming a permanent promenade
Date:	Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:38:04 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SF Recreation and Park Operations Committee,

I'm a long-time resident of San Francisco and in 2019, moved to the Portola neighborhood. I was surprised to "discover" McLaren Park and all that it has to offer, especially now that I have young children ages 5 and 2.5. It's important to us to keep the park safe, clean, and accessible to all, and that's why we also volunteer with Chuck Farrugia and Help McLaren Park.

I'm writing in support of the Shelley Promenade Proposal. If Shelley is permanently closed to vehicle traffic, it and the park will be that much more user- and family-friendly. Meanwhile, vehicles have other means of access to adjacent areas of the park. It seems like a win-win for all.

Please help us keep Shelley Drive car-free in support of more walking, running, biking, scootering, strollering, etc. recreation and human connection at McLaren Park. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Karen Tsai

From: audra farrell
To: Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc: Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject: Shelley Promenade Proposal: from Upper Reservoir Parking Lot to Field of Dogs.
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:11:59 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good afternoon,
I am writing in support of keeping the section of Shelley Drive from the upper reservoir to the field of dogs closed to vehicular traffic.
This road runs so close to where many people with dogs walk and enjoy the park. Reopening it will create an unsafe situation for people and dogs alike in the park.
If this section is reopened, I am concerned speeding around those blind curves will be a hazard, it is already tricky in the rest of the park while walking my dog, even on leash. If the road were reopened, I do not think I would use that area of the park any more.
Please consider keeping it closed and keeping users of the park safe.
Thank you,
Audra Farrell
The Excelsior.

From:	Jess Monks
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	McLaren Park: Shelley Promenade Proposal
Date:	Monday, May 22, 2023 11:35:13 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I recently heard that there was a proposal to keep a portion of John F Shelley Drive in McLaren park closed to traffic. I would like to show my support for the proposal, and agree that the west section of the road should remain car free. I hope this is the correct email address to use, but please let me know if I should email this to a different address.

I do not believe that any advantages to opening the west section of John F Shelley Dr would outweigh the benefits of keeping it closed. At best, the stretch of road provides a *minor* shortcut to Mansell St, but that is only if the car is coming from the car park by the lake. Otherwise, turning left off of Cambridge St remains a quicker option. The maybe 1-2 minute drive time it saves, does not seem worth it, compared to keeping it closed.

We live a few blocks from the park and our regular walks there take us near the west section of road several times. I am always grateful that we do not need to worry about traffic on it. Allowing cars to use the road would not only make the park less safe for the many families who enjoy the park trails, but the extra pollution and noise would be harmful to the park and its wildlife. Additionally, I feel that as one of the biggest parks in the city, it is important to keep McLaren as 'green' and pro-nature as possible. It serves as a wonderful local getaway from the hustle and bustle of urban life, and I feel it is important to preserve this gem of nature as much as we can.

All the best,

Jessica

From:	Matthew Blain
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	SFUR Support of the Shelley Promenade in McLaren Park
Date:	Friday, May 26, 2023 10:57:02 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

SF Urban Riders supports the closure to cars of Shelley Drive from the Upper Reservoir parking lot counterclockwise to near Mansell Street.

SF Urban Riders is an organization dedicated to creating more off road cycling opportunities in San Francisco. Our goal is to build a city-wide network of trails where people of all ages and abilities can ride bikes for fun and as a way to experience the outdoors in an urban environment.
While the Shelley Drive closure would not increase natural surface trail mileage, it does increase car free routes and paths for bicyclists and other users while allowing continued vehicle parking access to all park areas.

This project also provides an opportunity for future activation of the park. There has been a demand for other uses such as smooth roller (including bicycle) activity areas, exercise equipment, bicycle features, and more.

We urge that thecreation of the promenade be approved, and that the department consider activating and using this space for a wide variety of park activities in future planning.

Thank you,
Matthew Blain
Chair, SF Urban Riders

From: Shane Booth
To: Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject: Keep Shelley West Closed!
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:00:41 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Mr. Stokle,

I am writing to request the continuation of the closure of Shelly Drive in McLaren Park, specifically from the McLaren Park upper reservoir to Mansell Drive. This closure has had a significant positive impact on the park's safety, cleanliness, and overall visitor experience.

Since the implementation of the closure, we have witnessed a decrease in crime rates and instances of trash dumping within the park. The restricted vehicular access has created a safer environment and discouraged criminal behavior. Additionally, the reduction in traffic has improved the tranquility of the park and minimized noise pollution.

The closure of Shelley Drive aligns with the city's commitment to sustainability and the preservation of McLaren Park's natural beauty. By limiting vehicle traffic, we can protect the park's delicate ecosystem and promote a more harmonious coexistence between the park and the surrounding community. It also encourages alternative modes of transportation, such as walking and cycling, further enhancing the park's appeal.

I kindly urge you to consider the benefits of maintaining the closure of Shelley Drive. By doing so, we can continue to build upon the positive progress made in McLaren Park and ensure the continued well-being of its visitors.

Thank you,
Shane

From:	Judith Sansone
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	In support of a car free Shelley Drive promenade
Date:	Sunday, May 21, 2023 7:21:39 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SF Rec and Park,

I am a resident of the Excelsior District (I live on Athens Street between Brazil and Excelsior) and make regular use of McLaren Park. I have lived in the neighborhood for 8 and a half years and it has been great to observe all of the changes and improvements to the park. I regularly walk my dog and ride my bike there and being able to walk car free in the park truly saved my mental health during the first year of the pandemic.

I was disappointed when cars were allowed back in the park (though I understand compromise is important) so I am really glad that there is an opportunity to return Shelly Drive promenade to a car free state.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter. McLaren is a great park. Thanks for all that is being done to improve it!

Sincerely
Judith Sansone
415-533-8404

From:	Loren Mooney
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	Car-free Shelley Drive west in McLaren Park
Date:	Sunday, May 21, 2023 4:00:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commission,

I am writing to support the Shelley Promenade proposal to make the western part of Shelley Drive permanently closed to cars.

I've seen the many groups of people—walkers, families with children, runners, dog owners—enjoying the lovely paved space during this current car-free period. It is heavily and well used and its closure does not restrict car access to park gems.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in making our community safer and more walkable.

Loren Mooney
123 Vienna St, San Francisco, CA 94112
646-334-8197

From:	Ren Volpe
To:	Commission, Recpark (REC)
Cc:	Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject:	Shelley Drive Promenade Proposal (McLaren Park)
Date:	Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:45:16 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

I am an Excelsior resident (D11) and walk in McLaren Park pretty much every day.

Since the west portion of Shelley Drive has been closed (because of the pandemic), the park is safer and cleaner. Previously there were cars racing through that part of the park - making it unusable because there are no sidewalks along Shelley Drive.

There is less dumping and fewer car break-ins now. The two entrances to the Upper Reservor parking lot made it too easy for litterers and thieves to zip through the loop after dumping trash or smashing car windows.

Neighbors can now walk the Promenade in the evening and watch the sunset, something we could not do before. Everyone loves the new bench that gardener Daniel Choi installed, too.

I meet and chat with so many park users every day and have heard nothing but praise for this new car-free section of our park.

We look forward to the permanent closure of this road with nicer barriers.

Ren Volpe
242 Athens Street
SF CA 94112
415-235-2617

From: Sarah Burke
To: Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject: Opening Shelly Drive
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 5:00:34 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Brian,

I did not know there was a meeting about Shelly Drive. I want to voice my support in the reopening of Shelly Drive. For many people this was a way to access the park. There are enough trails in Mclauren, both paved and unpaved. We do not need to keep closing streets to provide places to walk; we need to keep street access open for cars so that seniors and others who need easier street access have the opportunity to move around on calmer side streets.

Thanks for listening, please add me to any future meeting dates,

Sarah

From:	Scott Feeney
To:	Stokle, Brian (REC); Ward, Alexis (REC)
Subject:	McLaren Park / Shelley Drive update
Date:	Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:28:59 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Brian and Alexis,

I wasn't able to attend the McLaren Park community meeting tonight due to a conflict. Are the materials available?

Not having seen them, I'll comment that car-free Shelley has greatly increased my visits to and enjoyment of McLaren Park, and I support its permanence. Besides being safer, it enhances the peaceful, quiet, natural ambiance of the parts of the park adjacent to it, along the Philosopher's Way Trail on the western hillside, on the hilltop with the labyrinth, and in the meadow (sometimes called "field of dogs") near Mansell and Shelley West, which became a favorite spot to recharge for me during the pandemic.

There's a lot of untapped potential for even more people to discover and enjoy Car-Free Shelley and the Mansell Promenade and I suggest:

- More bike parking, especially:
  - At Mansell/Brazil/Persia where the Brazil ped/bike connector enters the park. I want to park here when I hike the Philosopher's Way Trail and Car-Free Shelley
  - Along Car-Free Shelley at the meadow/field of dogs near Mansell.
  - In or near the car parking lot for the Upper Reservoir.
  - Note: All of these locations currently have zero purpose-made bike parking!
  - Bike lockers usable with a BikeLink card would be a great option as well for those afraid to trust their bike to just a U-lock.
- Adding protected bike/walking lanes on the parts of Shelley that still allow cars.
  - Maybe this is part of what you announced at the meeting tonight. If so: yes, please!
- Publicizing more widely the pedestrian and bike connection at the top of Brazil Ave. This would require working with SFMTA but with their help:
  - Add more bike wayfinding. I saw there was finally a (tiny) sign added at Brazil & La Grande, but further down the hill as well.
  - Add sharrows on Brazil Ave and get it onto the bike maps.
  - Ideally, cut the Alemany Blvd median at Norton to allow bikes to cross and add a bicycle signal / turn box from southbound Alemany to eastbound Norton. Then there's an easy, direct way up via Norton, which crosses Mission at a signal and becomes Brazil.
  - With a slight rerouting of the 52 bus to use Excelsior rather than Brazil west of Naples in both directions, then Brazil from Mission to Naples could become a Slow Street, helping to lock in its current status as a low-traffic street friendly to biking into the park.
  - Note: I realize these ideas seem ambitious, but encourage you to think big and partner with MTA on an evaluation of improved bike routes to McLaren Park that could include ideas of such scope. It would fit nicely into the Active Transportation Plan's focus on the Excelsior.
- Another one to partner with SFMTA on: Shelters with real-time arrival displays for the 29 stops along Mansell in the park, especially prioritizing the Shelley West intersection.

Thanks,
Scott

From: Cindy Cosbey
To: Stokle, Brian (REC)
Subject: Followup 2/23/23 meeting, John Shelley Drive
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 8:13:45 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Brian,
Thanks for hosting the community meeting.
As a SF resident in the Excelsior who walks in MacLaren Park daily, I was glad to participate.
Sometimes I walk two times a day, always with my dog and often with family and/or friends.
The park is one of the jewels of San Francisco and adds greatly to our family's quality of life.
I found out about the meeting through the signs posted near the Upper Reservoir. Thanks!

In summary:
-Shelley West:
Furnishings: I support benches to look west on Shelley West across from Upper Reservoir.
The view of the ocean facing west is already partly blocked by the growing cypress trees that are behind residences on Prague St and Ina Court. So if one wants to preserve the ocean view, the trees will need trimming.
Shelley West near the current Upper Reservoir is very windy and exposed. Too windy for pingpong, volley ball or other activities affected by wind. So don't waste money on that.
Turning the current parking lot next to Upper Reservoir into an area for roller hockey? Maybe?
That area is very exposed to wind and rain. It is not conducive to hanging out.
Generally people like to congregate in areas that are protected from wind, for example the area of the park that borders Cambridge St or Shelley North. What about a skating or roller hockey area in that section of the park?
Since the current parking lot near the Upper Reservoir is lower than Shelley West, it might be OK for roller skating or roller hockey because the roller hockey puck stays on the ground.
But I have concerns about limiting parking to the Upper Reservoir because it would limit access for those w/limited mobility who depend on the slanted Upper Reservoir path. That way they can avoid the steps to Upper Reservoir.

-Shelley East:
I have no opinion on sidewalks.
For traffic calming, what about speed bumps?
Also for traffic calming: I support option B that allows two-way traffic.
I agree that a crosswalk near Jerry Garcia amphitheater would be good.

I am strongly against option C or D. If options C or D are used to have one-way car access, I predict that there will be car collisions and cars driving into or over the bulge outs (or whatever you call them). The resulting and inevitable damage to the option C or D bulge outs will end up being unsightly, expensive, and will need constant repairs.

Thanks again and I look forward to future meetings.
Is there a way I can sign up to be notified regarding future meetings?

Best regards,
Cindy Cosbey
San Francisco resident of the Excelsior for 30 years