

1 [Creation of a “Beach to Bay” Car-Free Connection and Equitable Access to Golden Gate
2 Park]

3 **Resolution Calling for the Creation of a “Beach to Bay” Car-Free Connection and**
4 **Urging the Recreation and Park Department and San Francisco Municipal**
5 **Transportation Agency to Improve Park Accessibility and Create Equitable Access to**
6 **Golden Gate Park.**

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8 WHEREAS, Golden Gate Park is the third most visited park in the United States as
9 green space used by 13 million people each year; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1998, the Golden Gate Park Master Plan was adopted, which set a long
11 term vision for park investments, including creating and maintaining a parkwide system of
12 recreational roadways, pathways, and trails, and to minimize motor vehicle traffic; and

13 WHEREAS, Also in 1998, Proposition J - Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act
14 established the Concourse Authority to oversee the construction of privately funded
15 Concourse Garage and related, publicly funded transit improvements; and

16 WHEREAS, Starting in 1969, the eastern half of John F. Kennedy (JFK) Drive was
17 closed to cars every Sunday; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2007, then-Supervisor Jake McGoldrick in File No. 070489, on file with
19 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 210944, which is hereby declared to be a
20 part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein, established “Healthy Saturdays,” closing
21 certain roads in Golden Gate Park including the eastern half of JFK Drive on Saturdays
22 between April and September; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2005, the Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution File No. 051247,
24 on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 210944, which is hereby declared
25 to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein, approving the Golden Gate Park Music

1 Concourse Surface Circulation Plan which prohibited the use of the Music Concourse for cut-
2 through automobile traffic; and

3 WHEREAS, On April 27, 2020, under the public health emergency order, to allow
4 residents to exercise and maintain a physical distance from others during the COVID-19
5 pandemic, a few roads in Golden Gate Park traveling from east to west were closed to cars,
6 creating a bicycle and pedestrian pathway from the beach to the far east side of the park,
7 including JFK Drive between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive; and

8 WHEREAS, In working with the city government, the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum
9 (de Young) built its loading docks on JFK Drive when rebuilding the institution, allowing for
10 freight delivery trucks to enter JFK Drive from the north in order to reach the museum's
11 loading docks, and the arrangement will continue to be monitored, evaluated, and modified for
12 effectiveness and safety; and

13 WHEREAS, The western half of JFK Drive is on the Vision Zero High Injury Map, and
14 since the road closures on Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Drive and JFK Drive, there have not
15 been any reported collisions of bicyclists or pedestrians; and

16 WHEREAS, Bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements have been continually made
17 in Golden Gate Park, including through the Golden Gate Park Safety Project, and safety
18 infrastructure encourages people to travel to and through the park using sustainable modes of
19 transportation; and

20 WHEREAS, Due to the closure of the Great Highway, travel patterns modeled by the
21 San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) shows vehicle traffic increasing on
22 Chain of Lakes and therefore pushing cars into Golden Gate Park; and

23 WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Park Sustainable Travel Study working group was
24 created to address the diverse needs of stakeholders of JFK Drive and identify access needs
25 for the eastern half of the road; and

1 WHEREAS, Common values of the working group included equal access for people
2 with disabilities, elders, families, those living outside the Richmond or Sunset, tourists, and
3 business people, and safety for bikers, walkers, museum and park employees during the day
4 and night; and

5 WHEREAS, Senior, disabled, and limited mobility communities have long faced
6 barriers due to automobile-exclusive infrastructure that prohibits or discourages pedestrian
7 use altogether, and can face additional barriers with road closures and often
8 underrepresented in conversations regarding accessibility; and

9 WHEREAS, Communities historically redlined and lack access to open space given
10 decades of systemic disinvestment in the parks in those communities, including the Bayview,
11 Hunters Point, Chinatown, and Sunnydale, face barriers to visiting distant civic destinations
12 such as Golden Gate Park and may have to choose between an hour long bus ride or driving
13 a car to access these open spaces; and

14 WHEREAS, Other modes of sustainable transportation may not be as easy,
15 accessible, or affordable for these historically underserved communities; and

16 WHEREAS, Several institutions in Golden Gate Park draw millions of visitors in pre-
17 pandemic years including the Japanese Tea Garden, de Young Museum, and California
18 Academy of Sciences, serving not only San Francisco residents of all ages and abilities, but
19 also non-residents and regional tourists who may be relying upon a vehicle to access the
20 museums and gardens; and

21 WHEREAS, The parking garage prices may not be affordable for all park and museum
22 visitors, especially San Francisco residents in underserved communities, and free parking on
23 JFK Drive is not available when the road is closed to vehicles; and

24 WHEREAS, San Francisco's General Plan includes policies to: reduce congestion by
25 encouraging alternatives to single occupant vehicles and ensure the safety and comfort of

1 pedestrians, and identifying and expanding recreational bicycling activities, and implementing
2 the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the city's curb ramp program
3 to improve pedestrian access for all people; and

4 WHEREAS, A draft map is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.
5 210944, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors acknowledges that nothing in this resolution
7 constitutes a definitive commitment to a specific course of action, and that some actions urged
8 herein may be modified, and may need to undergo public deliberation and process and
9 environmental review before being implemented; and; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors supports the creation of a "Beach to Bay" path
11 utilizing the existing road closures in Golden Gate Park for pedestrians, cyclists, and other
12 non-motor vehicles to access and travel separately from motor vehicles, starting from MLK
13 Drive and La Playa Street, to Middle Drive West, to Overlook Drive, connecting at JFK Drive
14 and Transverse Drive though to Kezar Drive at Stanyan Street; and

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports equitable and
16 affordable access to parks, open areas, and recreation, and urges SFMTA and the Recreation
17 and Park Department (RPD) to increase accessibility to these areas for low-income,
18 historically underserved communities; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors acknowledges SFMTA and
20 RPD have begun outreach to stakeholders to identify challenges and concerns in safely
21 accessing Golden Gate Park, and urges the agencies to conduct transparent and equitable
22 community outreach and engagement to be incorporated in any future changes to Golden
23 Gate Park; and

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the de Young and
2 California Academy of Sciences to work with city departments to continue to improve
3 equitable access to their institutions; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
5 collect and monitor data on Golden Gate Park users to ensure racial, socioeconomic, mobility,
6 and health equity for all users; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
8 collect data on vehicle travel through Golden Gate Park in north-south directions, to establish
9 metrics in data collection for the purpose of ensuring bicycle and pedestrian safety, and re-
10 evaluate if the managed access is not meeting safety; and

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
12 implement both short- and long-term strategies identified in the Golden Gate Park Sustainable
13 Travel Study including, but not limited to, improved wayfinding signage and park maps, such
14 as park shuttle stops, garage signage with parking availability for the Concourse garage,
15 improve in-park mobility services, and improve and prioritize connections and access points
16 into the park; and

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
18 provide diverse and affordable transit options including, but not limited to, an accessible,
19 affordable, timely, and reliable Golden Gate Park shuttle that connects with nearby high
20 frequency transit (e.g. N-Judah, 5R-Fulton Rapid, and others), more frequent and reliable
21 cross-town routes, improvements to North-South connections on the westside of San
22 Francisco by all modes of transit, including implementing improvements for connections to
23 Sunset Boulevard, bus lines including the 29-Sunset, 28-19th Avenue, 18-46th Avenue,
24 restoration of the 21 Hayes which provides the Western Addition and other city residents with
25 a direct connection to Golden Gate Park at Fulton and Stanyan Street during the weekday

1 and 8th Avenue and Fulton on weekends, and safety improvements for pedestrians and
2 cyclists at Chain of Lakes; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFMTA to fulfill
4 pedestrian safety improvements on surrounding streets to Golden Gate Park including, but not
5 limited to, Fulton Street, Lincoln Way, accessible park border sidewalks on Lincoln Way, and
6 to make additional safety improvements at the park entrance at Stanyan Street and Kezar
7 Drive for pedestrians and cyclists; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
9 improve garage signage and parking availability, and wayfinding outside of the park so visitors
10 are aware garage access is free for the first 15 minutes and can drop off passengers inside
11 the garage; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
13 implement options on providing free parking for the first four hours in the Music Concourse
14 garage for San Francisco residents in ZIP codes that are historically low-income, underserved
15 residents including 94124, 94112, 94108, 94134, and 94133, or by proof of Electronic Benefits
16 Transfer (EBT) or Medi-Cal card; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges RPD to explore and
18 implement incentives for San Francisco residents in low-income or isolated communities to
19 visit Golden Gate Park, such as providing designated weekend public transit to the Music
20 Concourse for San Francisco residents including 94124, 94112, 94108, 94134, and 94133;
21 and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to add
23 additional ADA parking in and provide free parking for the first four hours in the Music
24 Concourse garage for vehicles with a Disabled Person Placard, as seniors and people with
25 disabilities may experience more economic hardships; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
2 implement a comprehensive curb management strategy for the Music Concourse and
3 surrounding streets to allow for access to the loading dock for the institutions, and to improve
4 parking availability for institution employees who may work late hours; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
6 develop options for considering managed access at 8th Avenue and Fulton Street to allow for
7 vehicles actively transporting seniors, people with disabilities, and visitors with limited mobility;
8 and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges SFMTA and RPD to
10 allow for vehicle access on Conservatory Drive West via Arguello Street so volunteers of the
11 Dahlia Dells and Conservatory of Flowers may access the area; now, therefore be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
13 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor, RPD, and SFMTA.

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