

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO: 10.5

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Streets

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Approving a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure application by a local restaurant for Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75 feet northerly, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, through Wednesday, July 21, 2027, 3 pm to 11:59 pm, each Tuesday through Friday; 3 pm to 1 am, each Saturday; and 1 pm to 10 pm, each Sunday; and making environmental review findings.

SUMMARY:

- Roadway Shared Spaces closures which significantly interfere with or delay a public transit service, exceed ten consecutive hours per day over four consecutive days per week, or exceed a total period of time more than two years are considered to be a Longer-Term Closure and therefore require approval from this Board.
- Paria Sedigh of Bodega has applied for the proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closure to close Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75-feet northerly, to vehicular traffic part-time.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces closure has been presented at an Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation public hearing.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closure has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ENCLOSURES:

1. SFMTAB Resolution
2. Better Streets Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration
http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2007.1238E_FMND.pdf
3. Better Streets Plan CEQA Findings, Planning Commission Resolution
https://sfplanning.s3.amazonaws.com/default/files/meetingarchive/planning_dept/sf-planning.org/ftp/files/Commission/cpcpackets/2007.1238emrtu.pdf
4. Better Streets Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration Shared Spaces Addendum
<https://citypln-mextnl.sfgov.org/SharedLinks.aspx?accesskey=bc61363c7effb77e5715d781677a071ae265f0cdbf27c18bd9d91b3402e0900a&VaultGUID=A4A7DACD-B0DC-4322-BD29-F6F07103C6E0>

APPROVALS:

DATE

DIRECTOR



July 16, 2026

SECRETARY



July 16, 2026

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: July 21, 2026

PURPOSE

Approving a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure application by a local restaurant for Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75-feet northerly, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, through Wednesday, July 21, 2027, 3 pm to 11:59 pm, each Tuesday through Friday; 3 pm to 1 am, each Saturday; and 1 pm to 10 pm, each Sunday; and making environmental review findings.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND TRANSIT FIRST POLICY PRINCIPLES

This item will support the following SFMTA Strategic Plan Goals:

Goal 6: Eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by increasing use of transit, walking and bicycling.

Goal 7: Build stronger relationships with stakeholders.

This item will support the following Transit First Policy Principles:

1. To ensure quality of life and economic health in San Francisco, the primary objective of the transportation system must be the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
3. Decisions regarding the use of limited public street and sidewalk space shall encourage the use of public rights of way by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit, and shall strive to reduce traffic and improve public health and safety.

DISCUSSION

Bodega is a bistro and wine bar located on Columbus Avenue in the North Beach neighborhood. Due to street geography, Bodega has no viable street frontage on Columbus Avenue to operate a parklet. In lieu of a parklet, Bodega has operated a street closure on adjacent Via Bufano from July 2020 through December 2022, originally permitted through a pandemic emergency order. Via Bufano is a narrow alley with entrances at Columbus Avenue and Greenwich Street. Bodega submitted an application to close a portion of Via Bufano through the permanent Roadway Shared Spaces program in late 2023 and was issued a permit in 2024. Bodega then renewed their permit in 2025, which expired on March 22, 2026. However, Bodega continued operating the street closure past their permit expiration date. Upon receiving a warning and reminder from staff about their expired permit, Bodega has submitted a new application with intention to renew. This current application is a renewal of Bodega's previous Roadway Shared Spaces permit and proposes no changes to their closure footprint and setup except for minor changes to their Tuesday to Saturday operating hours.

The request is to close the following area to vehicular traffic, as requested by the applicant:

- Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75-feet northerly, Tuesday, July 21, 2026,

through Wednesday, July 21, 2027, 3 pm to 11:59 pm, each Tuesday through Friday; 3 pm to 1 am, each Saturday; and 1 pm to 10 pm, each Sunday.

The SFMTA Board of Directors is asked to consider the approval of a Longer-Term Closure of the above areas under the authority granted by California Vehicle Code section 21101 and Div. II, section 206 of the Transportation Code for the purpose of issuing a Roadway Shared Spaces permit. Roadway Shared Spaces street closures which exceed a total period of time more than two years are considered to be a Longer-Term Closure and therefore require approval from this Board. Bodega has held their respective street closures for over two years. Staff has found that, based upon a determination of public convenience and necessity, that the subject portion of the above listed street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours, and that the street closure is necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use the street during the closures. Staff recommends the Board make these findings and approve the street closures as discussed below.

ITEMS

The following items were considered at a Public Hearing held on June 11, 2026, by the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75-feet northerly, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, through Wednesday, July 21, 2027, 3 pm to 11:59 pm, each Tuesday through Friday; 3 pm to 1 am, each Saturday; and 1 pm to 10 pm, each Sunday.

Item A would grant a permit for a Shared Spaces Road Closure for Bodega for outdoor dining.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Item A was considered at a Public Hearing held on June 11, 2026, by ISCOTT. In advance of the hearing, ISCOTT received one letter of opposition from residential neighbors. The concerns about lack of cleanup about broken wine glasses have been addressed—Bodega must abide by the good neighbor policy and their permit may be revoked if they are not in compliance. Additionally, Bodega cannot set up their street closure on Saturdays until the North Beach Farmers Market has restored access on the Greenwich Street end. There have been complaints that Bodega was setting up their street closure while the North Beach Farmers Market closed the northern end of Via Bufano. Bodega has had new staff who were not properly informed of this nuance that their street setup is later than their opening hours on Saturdays. They have since been informed of this requirement.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The details of the proposed closure presented in Item A are as requested by the applicant. The alternative would be to not grant the Roadway Shared Spaces permit, which may negatively

affect the local economy by not activating the streets for outdoor dining.

FUNDING IMPACT

The ISCOTT application fee, which applies to Roadway Shared Spaces (Transportation Code SEC 6.16(g)), is set at a cost recovery rate to cover staff's time and effort to review the subject application. The applicant for Item A has paid an application fee of \$2,347 for applications submitted 30-59 days before the first event.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On April 19, 2021, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the Shared Spaces Program (Case No. 2021-003010ENV), inclusive of Item A, is within the scope of the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND, Case No. 2007.1238E, September 17, 2010), and that the proposal would not require the preparation of a subsequent negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines section 15162. On October 28, 2010, the Planning Commission in Resolution No. 18211, adopted findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code (CEQA Findings), and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), associated with the Better Streets Plan.

Copies of the CEQA determinations are on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and may be found in the records of the Planning Department by Case Number at <https://sfplanninggis.org/pim> or 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 in San Francisco, and are incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED

Pursuant to section 206 of the Transportation Code, the decision of the SFMTA Board of Directors with respect to any proposed Longer-Term Closure of a Traffic Lane shall be final.

A public hearing for Item A was held at the June 11, 2026 meeting of ISCOTT.

The City Attorney has reviewed this item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the SFMTA Board approve a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure application by a local restaurant for Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75-feet northerly, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, through Wednesday, July 21, 2027, 3 pm to 11:59 pm, each Tuesday through Friday; 3 pm to 1 am, each Saturday; and 1 pm to 10 pm, each Sunday; and make environmental review findings.

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has received an application for a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure as follows:

- A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Via Bufano from Columbus Avenue to 75-feet northerly, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, through Wednesday, July 21, 2027, 3 pm to 11:59 pm, each Tuesday through Friday; 3 pm to 1 am, each Saturday; and 1 pm to 10 pm, each Sunday; and

WHEREAS, The subject portion of the above listed street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours and the street closures are necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use those portions of the street during the closure; and,

WHEREAS, On September 17, 2010, the San Francisco Planning Department published the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Better Streets Plan FMND, Case No. 2007.1238E), and under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code—the San Francisco Planning Commission adopted CEQA Findings, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on October 28, 2010 under Motion 18211; and,

WHEREAS, On April 19, 2021, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the Shared Spaces Program (Case No. 2021-003010ENV), inclusive of Item A, is within the scope of the Better Streets Plan FMND and that it would not require the preparation of a subsequent negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162; and,

WHEREAS, The SFMTA Board of Directors has reviewed the Better Streets Plan Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND) and Addendum and finds that since adoption of the FMND, no changes have occurred in the proposed project or in the circumstances under which the project would be implemented that would cause new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts identified and analyzed in the FMND, and that no new information has emerged that would materially change the analysis or conclusions set forth in the FMND; The actions approved herein would not necessitate implementation or additional or considerably different mitigation measures that those identified in the FMND; and,

WHEREAS, Copies of the CEQA determinations are on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and may be found in the records of the Planning Department by Case Number at <https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/> or 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 in San Francisco, and are incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, The public has been notified about the proposed modifications and has been given the opportunity to comment on those modifications through the public hearing process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors adopts these CEQA findings as its own; a copy of the Planning Commission Resolution, the CEQA findings, and the CEQA determinations are on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and may be found in the records of the Planning Department at <https://sfplanning.org/> and 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 in San Francisco, and is incorporated herein by reference; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency approves the application from Paria Sedigh of Bodega for Item A above and finds that the subject portion of the above listed street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic during the proposed closure hours and the street closure is necessary for the safety and protection of the public who will use that portion of the street during the closure.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of July 21, 2026.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency