THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO: 10.2

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

DIVISION: Streets

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
Approving a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure application for Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days; 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.
- Scott Bravmann of Friends of Elm Alley has applied for a proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closure to close Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street to vehicular traffic part-time for a 3-year closure period.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces closure has been presented at an Interdepartmental Staff Council on Traffic and Transportation public hearing.
- The proposed Roadway Shared Spaces street closures have 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-m extnl.sfgov.org/SharedLinks.aspx?accesskey=bc61363c7effb77e5715d781677a071ae265f0cdbf27c18bd9d91b3402e0900a&VaultGUID=A4A7DACD-B0DC-4322-BD29-F6F07103C6E0

APPROVALS: **DATE**

DIRECTOR Viktoriya Wise November 25, 2026

SECRETARY November 25, 2026

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: December 1, 2026

PURPOSE

Approving a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure application for Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days; 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

Elm Alley School Street Proposed Roadway Shared Spaces Closure
Tenderloin Community School (TCS) is a PreK-5th Grade public elementary school located on Turk Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street. TCS also has an entrance on Elm Street, a one-way westbound alley parallel to Turk Street. Scott Bravmann has applied for a Roadway Shared Spaces permit on behalf of Friends of Elm Alley to close Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days. Friends of Elm Alley has operated a daily weekday street closure in this location since April 2021. Independent Arts and Media (IAM) is the fiscal sponsor of Friends of Elm Alley. This application is a renewal from the previous year and proposes no changes to their closure footprint and setup, but requests a 3-year closure period since the street closure has operated without issue for the past five years. No objects are placed in the roadway other than barricades. The Elm Street Shared Space provides additional outdoor recreation area for schoolchildren during recess and lunchtime and facilitates a school bus loading and unloading area twice a day.

The Elm Street Shared Space is also known as "Elm Alley School Street", modeled after "school streets" in other cities around the world—a car-free space fronting a school to provide an outdoor play area and allow for the safe arrival and departure of schoolchildren. The Elm Alley

School Street is a community-driven project funded through the Tenderloin Community Action Plan, which was led by SF Planning in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Office of Economic Workforce Development, Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, United Way Bay Area, and community leaders and entrepreneurs in the Tenderloin.

Elm Alley Improvements
Friends of Elm Alley have also requested that a swing gate be installed 100' west of Polk past the driveway, to further restrict vehicle access during the closure hours. The 100' between the gate and Polk will be reconfigured to allow for two-way traffic. The proposed gate would be funded through the sponsor. Staff are currently working with other City departments, including Public Works, on the details of gate installation on Elm to support the Elm Alley School Street, including associated curb changes. Staff plan to bring a separate item regarding the proposed gate to an SFMTA Board of Directors meeting in early 2027.

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

- Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days.

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. Friends of Elm Alley has held this street closure of Elm Street for over two years. Staff has found that, based upon a determination of public convenience and necessity, that the subject portion of Elm 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 closure. Staff recommends the Board make these findings and approve the street closure as discussed below.

ITEMS

The following item was considered at a Public Hearing held on October 22, 2026, by the Interdepartmental Staff Council on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT).

A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days.

Item A would close the subject portion of Elm Street for the purpose of issuing a Roadway

Shared Spaces permit for Friends of Elm Alley to provide a school street on Elm Street for Tenderloin Community School.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Item A was considered at a Public Hearing held on October 22, 2026, by ISCOTT. No public comments concerning this item were received at the hearing.

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 Tenderloin neighborhood by not activating an alley for use by schoolchildren.

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 $1,280 for applications submitted more than 120 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 October 22, 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 for Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days; 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 from Scott Bravmann of Friends of Elm Alley for a Roadway Shared Spaces street closure as follows:

A. ESTABLISH – SHARED SPACES ROAD CLOSURE – Elm Street between Van Ness Avenue and Polk Street, Monday, December 7, 2026, through Thursday, December 6, 2029, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday on school days; 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 streets 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 Board of Directors approves the application by Friends of Elm Alley 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 December 1, 2026.

_____

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency