
Mayor's Disability Council



Orkid Sassouni
Alex Madrid
Co-Chairs

Nicole Bohn
Director

RESOLUTION # 2022 – 01 MAYOR'S DISABILITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON ACCESSIBILITY OF GOLDEN GATE PARK AND CLOSURE OF JFK DRIVE

WHEREAS, Golden Gate Park is a unique, beautiful and world-famous attraction and venue that people with disabilities in San Francisco and beyond have enjoyed since its beginnings and;

WHEREAS, there are many facilities and programs within Golden Gate Park that are unique and of particular importance to people with disabilities such as the De Young Museum, the Academy of Sciences, the Conservatory of Flowers and many more and;

WHEREAS, many people with disabilities have relied on the use of their vehicles to get to Golden Gate Park and arrive at specific destinations. They have driven and parked on JFK Drive to use the Park and its amenities and;

WHEREAS, the closure of JFK Drive during the COVID pandemic posed significant barriers to and sometimes prevented people with disabilities from being able to access the park and its amenities as they had been able to do in the past and;

WHEREAS, people with disabilities who have experienced negative effects from the closure to private vehicles include Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, people with stamina and strength limitations, and blind and visually impaired people, as well as people with mobility limitations who rely on private vehicles, and;

WHEREAS, the closure also increased the ability for some people with disabilities to enjoy the park in a new and safe way and;

WHEREAS, San Francisco is known for having a strong commitment to disability accessibility and takes pride in going beyond the minimum requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar laws and;

WHEREAS, because of their different limitations, many people with disabilities have fewer options for accomplishing things. The solutions they rely on may be the only feasible way to accomplish particular goals, compared to others without disabilities who have more possibilities. Thus, external changes like the closure of JFK Drive are more likely to affect people with disabilities negatively and;

WHEREAS, the potential permanent closure of JFK Drive is part of an accelerating movement in SF away from encouraging the use of cars and towards other modes of transit and mobility. This movement must take into account in a thoughtful way the reliance of many seniors and people with disabilities on cars as a mobility device, and the resolution of this issue will influence the equitable treatment of people with disabilities and seniors as this trend continues and;

WHEREAS, the temporary closure of JFK Drive during the COVID pandemic was implemented with a minimum of planning and cost. A permanent closure should be the result of careful planning and analysis on the impact on people with disabilities and seniors, along with the necessary expenditures to achieve the goals of equitable access and to demonstrate that such a change can be beneficial for all.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MDC supports the closure of JFK Drive to personal vehicles only under the following conditions:

- Parking
 - Addition of blue spaces to replace and supplement those removed by the closure
 - Free parking as close to the De Young Museum as possible, including blue spaces within the parking garage, to be paid for by City and County of San Francisco entities
- Right of Way Access
 - Adequate number of curb ramps throughout area closed to private vehicles
 - Existing curb ramps must comply with current code requirements and be in good repair
 - Crosswalks in good condition
- Shuttle service and paratransit
 - Frequent shuttle service (no more than 15 minutes apart) at all hours the park is open
 - Code compliant shuttle stops
 - Kneeling or low-floor, ramped vehicles
 - Sheltered waiting areas
 - Access for all paratransit vehicles, including paratransit taxis
- Information and communication
 - Multiple ways to find information about the accessibility of this area and the park in general (website, phone, brochures in accessible formats)
 - Information about accessibility and park modifications for Deaf people in sign language.
 - WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) compliant website including directional wayfinding instructions whenever maps or routes are referenced
 - Ongoing outreach to the different constituencies within the disability community
- Wayfinding and signage
 - Easy to understand signs and maps on site to identify accessibility amenities
- Drive-through access for exhibits and events that occur on or near JFK Drive
- Safety for pedestrians
 - Measures to keep bicyclists from speeding and ignoring crosswalks

- Separation between slow moving (i.e. pedestrians) and fast moving (i.e. bicyclists, scooter users) people
- Detectable warning for all areas where pedestrians could encounter vehicle traffic or fast moving users on bicycles or other devices
- A comprehensive accessibility plan with clear commitments and timeframes

The permanent closure of JFK Drive should not be considered unless these conditions are met.