



A Transit Riders' Association for San Francisco • Box 190966, SF, CA 94119 • 415/273-1558 •
www.rescuemuni.org

April 20, 2006

Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 282
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Car Free Golden Gate Park On Saturdays - SUPPORT

Dear Supervisors,

Rescue Muni's Steering Committee strongly supports a six month trial of Saturday car free space in Golden Gate Park and asks for you support Healthy Saturdays when it comes to you for your vote on Tuesday, April 25.

As you know, over one million people enjoy the Sunday Car free space in Golden Gate Park each year. It is the most popular attraction in the park and has been successful for 39 years. Sunday car free space has been successful for decades, even before there was a garage in the park.

Opponents of this legislation have pushed several key pieces of misinformation and have tried to confuse the issue. The truth has come out in the past week at the Land Use Committee hearing and in the press: 1) car free space does not hurt the de Young, in fact average attendance is higher on days that JFK is closed to cars, and 2) this legislation includes full park access for the disabled and even includes many additional parking spaces which will be available 7 days a week. We urge you to consider these facts when evaluating the claims made by opponents of Healthy Saturdays, who now have the garage that they demanded years ago and yet still oppose this common-sense measure.

A vote for this legislation will increase usage of the park, benefit families, and allow us to share in the pride of contributing to the legacy of San Francisco. It will support San Francisco's Transit-First Policy, which clearly states that public transit and pedestrian safety must be a higher priority than single occupancy automobiles. A vote against this legislation would be a vote against the million legitimate users of the park. It would be a vote against improvements to disabled access to the park, as well as a vote against the majority of voters who voted in 2000 for a car-free JFK on Saturday (some immediately and some only after the garage was built).

Thirty-nine years ago bold lawmakers in City Hall did the right thing and created Car Free Sunday, which has been a tremendous success and in fact *increases* patronage at the museums in the Music Concourse. We urge you to do the right thing for the park, , for transit riders and pedestrians, for families, and approve the proposed extension of this family-friendly event to Saturdays for the next six months. Please ensure that we get unanimous support of this important pro-family, pro-San Francisco initiative.

Sincerely,

Andrew Sullivan, Chair

cc: Mayor Gavin Newsom
Michael Ellzey, Concourse Authority
Recreation and Park Commission