San Carlos News Release

For More Information, Call:
Jeff Maltbie
Phone: (650) 802-4228
Fax: (650) 595-6729

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E-mail: jmalbie@cityofsancarlos.org
Web: http://www.cityofsancarlos.org

Temporary Street Changes to Support Businesses and Promote Activity

San Carlos, CA — In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of San Carlos is introducing two pilot programs to temporarily close some San Carlos streets to achieve the following objectives: 1) to encourage pedestrian activity; 2) to allow restaurants and other businesses downtown to use the right-of-way to extend outdoor dining and showcase merchandise; and 3) to promote physical activity in residential areas.

Laurel Street Closure

As San Mateo County allows for the gradual reopening of businesses closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with its most recent Shelter-in-Place Order allowing restaurants to reopen as long as physical distancing can be maintained, the City of San Carlos is responding. The San Carlos City Council approved a program to allow some Laurel Street and San Carlos Avenue restaurants and shops to expand into the street parking area for dining and retail services. Work on the temporary closures started today and should be complete by June 13, 2020. The closures will continue to the end of December 2020.

The 600 and 700 Blocks of Laurel Street will be temporary closed to through traffic, allowing restaurants and shops to use the parking area in front of their businesses. The travel lanes will be closed to traffic, but pedestrians and bicyclists will be allowed in the street to recreate and shop.
To accommodate delivery and service vehicles, one-way access will be allowed from the 700 block of Laurel Street and the 600 block of Laurel Street to San Carlos Avenue from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only.

On the 800 and 900 Blocks of Laurel Street and the 1100 Block of San Carlos Avenue, barricades will be placed along the parking areas. These barricades will separate the outdoor dining areas and shops with the adjacent vehicular traffic. The 800 and 900 Blocks of Laurel Street and San Carlos Avenue will retain normal two-way traffic flow.

**Weekend Street/Bike Loops**

The City Council has approved a weekend Street/Bicycle Loop Plan. These bike loops will be available each weekend (Saturday and Sunday only) starting on June 27, 2020 and continuing to the end of December 2020. It is hoped that this effort will encourage exercise through bicycling and pedestrian activity while providing residents with an alternate means to travel Downtown.

The Street/Bicycle Loop Plan includes Cherry, Elm, St. Francis, and Cedar with intermediate connections to Arroyo, Brittan, and Howard. The Bike Loops will connect to the Downtown and other sections of Laurel Street. Additional bike racks will be available in the Downtown to accommodate the anticipated increase in bikes.

Changeable message boards will be located in the city and social media messaging provided to inform the community about these Bike Loops. Additional signs will be placed along the routes to remind motorists to share the roadway and proceed with caution.

“The temporary street changes will provide much needed support to our San Carlos businesses harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional space for outdoor dining and shopping will allow for restaurants and retailers to reopen, providing our downtown with a lift it so desperately
needs” said Mayor Ron Collins. “The weekend Bike Loops will help encourage exercise through bicycling and pedestrian activity while providing residents with an alternate means to travel Downtown. I am looking forward to biking downtown to get a bite to eat and visit the stores I’ve missed this past few months.”

For more information about the San Carlos Avenue/Laurel Street Closures or weekend Street/Bike Loop Plan, visit www.cityofsancarlos.org.