



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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22-0078

Agenda Date: 2/17/2022

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### 2022 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

**NUMBER**

OCM 22-01

**TITLE** Permanently Close the 100 Block of Murphy Avenue to Vehicular Traffic

**BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Office of the City Manager  
**Support Departments:** Public Works  
Community Development  
Office of the City Attorney  
**Sponsor(s):** City Manager  
**History:** 1 year ago: N/A  
2 years ago: N/A

**SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

**What precipitated this Study?**

In June 2020, the City temporarily closed the 100 block of South Murphy Avenue to vehicles by issuing a Special Event Permit, with the City as the applicant based on its authority under Sunnyvale Municipal Code Chapter 9.45 and the general enabling authority pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 21101 (e). The Permit's expiration date was set for June 30, 2021; however, the City reserved the right to extend the permit term as warranted by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and updates. On July 27, 2021, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to extend the temporary closure of Murphy Avenue until December 31, 2021. During the July 27, 2021 City Council meeting, staff reported that a staff-sponsored study issue would be prepared for Council consideration and action at the 2022 Council Study Issue Workshop.

Staff has received numerous emails asking the City to permanently close the 100 block of South Murphy Avenue to vehicular traffic. Some businesses have asked that the street remain open to vehicular traffic as customers need vehicular access to their location for a quick pick up or drop off for customers unable to walk long distances from the parking lots. Some businesses, located inside and outside the downtown area, have also raised an equity issue as they feel that the street closure unfairly benefits Murphy Avenue restaurants by providing free outdoor dining space.

**What are the key elements of the Study?**

The Study would review the impacts of permanently closing the 100 Block of South Murphy Avenue to vehicular traffic. This Study would require extensive outreach to property owners, business owners, the Sunnyvale community, the Sunnyvale Downtown Association, and the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce. The City should understand the needs of both businesses and residents and the impacts the street closure may have on the community.

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The number of new seats for dining will be capped at 284 as part of this Study to keep the new peak hour trips to less than 100 net new trips, otherwise an extensive traffic analysis would be necessary to evaluate the additional seats. The Study will evaluate the potential cost impact of the need for additional cleaning of the sidewalk and roadway area. Also, the cost to install and maintain the devices used to close the roadway would be included in the Study. The study would also address the compensation businesses would have to pay for the use of the outdoor area for dining or other uses. The use of the street, if closed, would need to be reviewed by staff from Community Development, Public Works, and the Department of Public Safety to ensure pedestrian accessibility and accessibility for emergency services.

**Estimated years to complete Study:** 0.5 years

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$0
Funding Source:	N/A

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

**EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION**

Council-Approved Work Plan: No  
Council Study Session: Yes  
Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: No

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2022 Study Issues Workshop.

The Study will assist the City in determining the potential impacts of permanently closing the 100 Block of South Murphy Avenue. Community outreach with the Sunnyvale Downtown Association, Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, property owners, and the Sunnyvale community would provide input on whether to permanently close this portion of Murphy Avenue to vehicular traffic.

Prepared by: Maria Rodriguez, Administrative Analyst  
Reviewed by: Connie Verceles, Assistant to the City Manager  
Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager  
Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager