

Supervisors vote to close `vehicle access to nuisance streets

March 13, 2024



The Del Norte Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing and adopted a Resolution authorizing Community Development staff to proceed with the temporary closure of portions of Union and Broad Streets, South Bend and Madison Avenues and National Blvd.

The closure will use a combination of gates and K rail. The Resolution aligns with Vehicle Code 211.014 and 211.016 that identifies the following:

- Serious and criminal activity in the highway recommended for temporary closure.
- The highway is not designated as a through highway or arterial street.
- Vehicular or pedestrian traffic on the highway contributes to criminal activity.
- The closure will not substantially adversely affect traffic flow, safety on the adjacent streets, the operation of emergency vehicles, the performance of public utility services or the delivery of freight by commercial vehicles.

The Resolution authorizes the spending of \$50,000 of Measure R funds by Code Enforcement for cleanup in the South Bend Ave. and Union St. areas.

1st District Supervisor Darrin Short delivered the presentation to colleague supervisors and the public at last Tuesday's Board meeting.

The effort to secure and restrict vehicular traffic ingress and egress follows a similar effort to block off Union back in April, 2015. That request originated from a Cal Recycle Farm and Ranch grant for Code Enforcement. Then 2nd District Supervisor Martha McClure asked the item be tabled. The item was never brought back for discussion or a vote.

The reasons for the closure involve a significant increase in illegal trash disposal and serious and continuous criminal activities on Union, South Bend and Broad streets. In 2023, a total of 50 Crescent Fire Protection District fire calls were made and the Del Norte Sheriff dispatched deputies 282 times last year, alone.

The latest vehicle fire occurred in January.