

SFMTA board expands locations for car share vehicles

By Jessica Kwong

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Despite dissenting voices from several San Francisco residents, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency board members on Tuesday approved 25 new curbside locations across The City which only permitted car share vehicles can occupy.

The vote expands the transit agency's on-street car share pilot program from its original 12 spaces citywide. Under the program, the curbside locations will be tow-away zones for all but permitted car share vehicles.

Three car sharing companies - City CarShare, Zipcar and Getaround - qualified to participate in the two-year pilot program and have together already requested 450 of 900 parking spaces available. San Francisco has 275,450 spaces on its streets, according to a citywide parking census released in May.

Within the new 25 new locations, which equate to 41 parking spots, are two spaces on 20th Street and two spaces on Jones Street. The spots were selected through requests from car sharing companies and dialogue with residents near the locations.

Zipcar relocated 90 percent of its spots where neighbors raised concerns about losing parking, said Jonathan Tyburski, representing the company.

"We want to make this pilot successful and want to make it work for everybody," he said.

Still, a handful of residents have complained the car share spots take away already limited parking spaces in neighborhoods.

In the Bay Area, a car sharing vehicle has removed from anywhere from 5 or 6 to 13 or 14 personal cars from the street, according to SFMTA's Andy Thornley, project manager for the pilot.

"The City sounds like it's selling curb to private business. I understand that concern and I would be very resentful of that, but to remind you this is a pilot," he said. "SFMTA believes there is many public benefits to car sharing."

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/sfmta-board-expands-locations-for-car-share-vehicles/Content?oid=2832120>