



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of San José  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

**Re: From Your BPAC: We Support Staff Recommendations for the Downtown West Mixed-Use Project**

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the members of your City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. We have been appointed to advise and make recommendations on matters affecting the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians within our City.

We strongly support the City of San José's staff recommendations for the Downtown West Mixed Use Project. These recommendations were unanimously supported by your Planning Commission on April 28th.

We paraphrase Councilmember Peralez's words by stating that regardless of who is developing this area or who occupies SAP Center, the current Downtown West Mixed-Use Project is aligned with our City's long-term goals of creating multimodal communities and it offers a safer, more culturally diverse, and climate smart city to all who visit, work, or who live here.

These long-term goals are embodied in our City's *Diridon Station Area Plan (DSAP)*, which after years of community engagement, was adopted in 2014. The Downtown West Mixed-Use Project is also in step with almost all of your *Envision San José 2040 General Plan*. The Downtown West Mixed Use Project should be consistent with our City's long-term goals.

This project should also be consistent with the programs that our City has spent huge portions of its budget on, to address climate change and to improve the quality and safety of the lives of our City's residents, its visitors, and those who work here.

These programs include the Climate Smart; Green Vision; Better Bike Plan 2025; Traffic Engineering and Traffic Calming; and the Vision Zero programs.

We thank you for your leadership and your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

Brandon Alvarado, Chair  
San José Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

**Fw: Support For Downtown West**

City Clerk &lt;city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Tue 5/25/2021 9:40 AM

To: Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Brian Baumgartner [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8:51 AM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support For Downtown West

[External Email]

Hi,

I'm really excited about the Downtown West plan for San Jose. I believe it will bring increased clout, funds, entertainment, and other great things to our city and community. I also believe it will create a wonderful space for pedestrians, cyclists, etc. In particular, I cannot wait for the new bike paths and routes to be built and available. As an avid cyclist in the area it is incredibly frustrating to spend much of my leisure time biking dealing with unclean streets (glass, other debris on roads and in bike lanes), fixing flat tires as a result, dealing with bad drivers, and waiting/interrupting rides with stop lights and other traffic controls. The new Diridon area looks like it will solve a lot of these issues, creating bike and pedestrian friendly zones for cyclists, walkers, scooters, etc for both leisure and commute. I'm also very excited for a new and more efficient Diridon Station, including bike and pedestrian access, increased efficiency for loading and unloading trains, new facilities, and an iconic look for San Jose as the "crown jewel of Silicon Valley."

Thanks for your time and support of this project.

-----  
Brian Baumgartner  
[REDACTED]



Chair, **Christina Fugazi**, City of Stockton  
Vice Chair, **Leo Zuber**, City of Ripon  
Commissioner, **Jose Nuno**, City of Manteca  
Commissioner, **Doug Kuehne**, City of Lodi

Commissioner, **Nancy Young**, City of Tracy  
Commissioner, **Kathy Miller**, San Joaquin County

Executive Director, **Stacey Mortensen**

May 24, 2021

Mayor Sam Liccardo and the San Jose City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) Support for Google at Diridon**

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and the City Council:

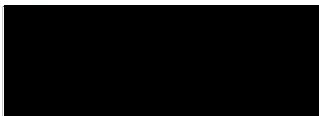
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is the owner/operator of the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) commuter rail service which has served Diridon Station for more than two decades. Please find this letter in support of Google's development plan near the San Jose Diridon Station.

Over the course of 20 years of ACE service, it has been demonstrated time and time again that focused and mixed development near stations has a beneficial impact on train ridership. The Diridon Station is an important transportation center for the ACE riders and more intensive land use will support the services that make Diridon Station such a significant transportation hub, including ACE, VTA, Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, and future High-Speed Rail and BART. This higher functionality of transit use near Diridon station will be significant in reaching the City's transportation mode shift goals.

The Downtown West project will include up to 7.3 millions square feet of employment space and 4,000 residential units (including 1,000 affordable) right at the doorstep of Diridon Station. This density and higher functionality of transit use near Diridon station could be significant in reaching the City's transportation mode shift goals.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you or any of your representatives have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (530) 400-9475 or you can email me at dan@acerail.com.

Sincerely,



Dan Leavitt  
Manager of Regional Initiatives  
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission / Altamont Corridor Express (ACE)



949 East Channel Street

Stockton, CA 95202

(800) 411-RAIL (7245)

www.acerail.com

May 24, 2021

Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Item 10.2, Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

PACT: People Acting in Community Together supports the proposed Downtown West project and urges the Council to approve the Development Agreement, Amendment to the Diridon Station Area Plan and the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan, which together address many of the concerns raised by community members about this proposed project over the past 4 years: lack of affordable housing, displacement of vulnerable residents and the need for community benefits.

In particular, the community fund proposed to be created by Google and the City of Jose in the Development Agreement would be the largest of its kind, with over \$150 million contributed by Google, and will be grounded in racial justice and governed by grassroots leaders. Community members, particularly those from communities of color, will have the authority to direct tens of millions to prevent displacement and create economic opportunity for local residents.

This is the result of four years of organizing and ensuring that Google and City leaders understood the impact of the proposed development on residents throughout the City. Community members turned out and made clear that the project must not destabilize our communities. PACT appreciates that Google's team and City leaders listened to community members and worked with community leaders to develop a governance model for the fund that gives those most impacted power over decisions that will disproportionately affect them. This process of City staff and the developer working together with community leaders to address the impact of development and giving at-risk communities real power over resources sets a new standard and should be replicated in the future.

Please approve the Development Agreement and related items.

Thank you,

Rev. Ray Montgomery  
PACT Executive Director

**Fw: Support for Downtown West, City Council 05/25, Agenda Item 10.2**

City Clerk &lt;city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Tue 5/25/2021 8:30 AM

To: Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

*How is our service? [Please take our short survey.](#)*

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**From:** John Kelly <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 8:10 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support for Downtown West, City Council 05/25, Agenda Item 10.2

[External Email]

Hello,

I've been using shared (public and private) transportation as well as my bicycle to travel to work for 25 years. For most of that time I have either taken Caltrain or biked through the Diridon station area. I fully support the Downtown West project. It's great to see the project enable the adoption of efficient transportation options, promoting safety and providing a better place to live.

As a San Josean and a cyclist, I respectfully urge the city to approve the downtown west project.

Thank you,  
John Kelly

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## Fw: San Jose Earthquakes Support for Google Downtown West

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 5/25/2021 8:30 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? [Please take our short survey.](#)

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**From:** Jared Shawlee [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:50 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** San Jose Earthquakes Support for Google Downtown West

[External Email]

To the Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council

Re: Downtown West Mixed-use Plan

The San Jose Earthquakes **support** the Downtown West Mixed-use Plan that will fill important needs in our community and generate significant and sustained economic benefits for residents of San José.

The Earthquakes have a 47 year history in San Jose, the longest of our professional sports franchises. We represent hundreds of players and employees and tens of thousands of Earthquakes fans who live and work in our City. I am thrilled to represent our stakeholders and offer support for one of the most transformational development opportunities San Jose has seen.

Downtown West will create more than 5,700 prevailing wage construction jobs with supplier diversity and local hire targets over a multi-year build-out. And, the planned 4,000 new homes in the Diridon Station Area and support of 25% affordable homes for families with a range of incomes can provide opportunities for people to live near their place of work. Creation of a \$150+ million Community Stabilization and Opportunity Pathways Fund focused on social equity and led by community can help provide a foundation for our residents' long term success. The 15 acres of public parks and open space with free year-round programming and the project's sustainability goal of zero net new carbon emissions will also contribute to a vibrant, healthy environment for community members.

**We respectfully request the City Council to support the Downtown West project in its entirety.**

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.

For San Jose,

Jared Shawlee

**Jared Shawlee**  
Chief Operating Officer

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San Jose Earthquakes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[#QUAKES74](#)

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1651 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
(408) 445-8500 • www.sccaor.com

May 25, 2021

## San Jose City Council

City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

### RE: Item 8.1, 10.2, and 10.3

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS® (SCCAOR) and our 6,000 members, I write regarding potential amendments to the Diridon Station Area Plan. SCCAOR is supportive of the staff-recommended development agreement with Google and applauds the work of everyone involved.

Google's Downtown West project will create an inclusive space with community involvement and bring long-term benefits to San Jose. This will bring thousands of permanent jobs to the region, as well as prevailing wage construction jobs to build the development, helping our region through an economic recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic. This project also commits to creating 4,000 desperately needed housing units, 25% of which will be affordable. SCCAOR highlights the importance of these affordable units that exceed the normal 15% affordability threshold. This will allow our entire community to live in and enjoy this new urban hub. As we face a housing crisis, this project achieves a fine balance of providing ample housing while also including ample commercial, retail, and green space to create a vibrant mixed-use development providing the City of San Jose with valuable tax revenue.

However, SCCAOR does have some concerns with the accompanying Diridon Affordable Housing Implementation Plan. We appreciate staff clarifying timelines and additional approval for several recommendations in the supplemental memorandum. However, we still have large concerns about some of the policies themselves. We urge the Council to consider a policy that supports vulnerable residents, without unduly burdening small property housing providers. SCCAOR strongly opposes any stricter rent control or tenant protections in any area of the City as state law and existing ordinances address displacement concerns. Stricter regulations only erode property rights and force "mom and pop" housing providers to remove naturally affordable housing from the market. It does nothing to incentivize homeownership for these residents which is truly the best way to decrease the wealth gap, create generational wealth, and protect these residents. We look forward to the outreach process to create anti-displacement policies in the Diridon Area that supports the entire community.

Regards,



Doug Goss  
2021 President, Santa Clara County Association of REALTORS®

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*SCCAOR exists to meet the business, professional and political needs of its members  
and to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.*





5/21/2021

Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Item 10.2, Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

On behalf of Silicon Valley Rising, the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council and Working Partnerships USA, we would like to strongly endorse Google's Downtown West Project. Google and the City of San Jose have agreed to a Development Agreement for the Downtown West project that could put \$154.8 million into a community fund grounded in racial justice, and governed by grassroots leaders. This is the biggest community benefits fund of its kind, and the first to empower communities of color with the authority to direct tens of millions towards preventing displacement and creating economic opportunity for local residents.

This comes in addition to commitments by Google creating a path for thousands of workers to good family-supporting union jobs building and running their proposed Downtown West campus and supporting thousands of affordable homes for San José families between the project and Google's existing Affordable Housing Fund to help offset tech's role in our housing crisis.

This agreement is the result of four years of organizing. It happened because residents came out to town hall meetings back in 2017 and shared their hopes and needs, signed onto our community vision for the project, marched with us through downtown and at Google's headquarters, emailed City leaders and testified at City Council meetings, and so much more. Together, we made clear that the project must not destabilize our communities. Together with UNITE HERE Local 19, SEIU USWW, Teamsters, Latinos United for a New America, PACT, Sacred Heart Community Services, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, Affordable Housing Network, SOMOS Mayfair and the Fight for \$15, we organized to ensure this project would address the communities greatest concerns and needs.

Google's team and City leaders listened. They've worked with our coalition of housing advocates, community organizations, and labor groups to find solutions to the community's greatest concerns and to jointly design this grassroots-governed community fund to tackle the root causes of our displacement crisis and to give the most impacted power over decisions. We collaborated to devise a process to review community benefit funds across the country, to consider best practices, to work with community members to reflect on a governance model that would intentionally address a history of racial, economic and political inequality.

The process of working together, community leaders together with Google and City staff to address the impacts of development on our communities is one that the City and other developers should seek to emulate, ensuring that as the City considers financially valuable land use changes which could have direct and indirect impacts on working families, we develop the necessary processes to capture more of this value for the public to address the potential impacts on neighborhoods experiencing the greatest pressures of displacement.

The fund will be governed by a 13-member Community Committee that reflects the diversity of San José and will have the final say on funding solutions:

- At least five members must have personal lived experience with the root causes of displacement, including two from the eastside and one from downtown.
- The other eight will have expertise fighting racial injustice in areas like housing, workers' rights, education, and small business.

The fund will focus on undoing racial inequity in neighborhoods experiencing displacement on the top priorities identified by our community:

- Stable housing: Preserving affordable homes, funding legal aid and tenant organizing, and piloting new ownership models where our homes belong to our community rather than private corporations.
- Economic opportunity: Providing pathways to good jobs for local residents of all ages and backgrounds, from early childhood education, to apprenticeships in careers like construction and IT, to help founding small businesses.

When we started on this journey, we said we wanted this project to be a new model for how the tech sector can develop without displacement. This agreement gives the communities most at risk real power over resources and together with the commitments creating a path to thousands of good union jobs and affordable housing, we're creating that new model. By listening to community and labor leaders, working together to design solutions to the community's biggest concerns, and giving power to those most impacted, Google's Downtown West project sets a new standard for future developments in San Jose.

While it has been a long journey to get where we are, this only shows that when we come together and organize as a community, we win.

Regards,

**Jean Cohen**

*Executive Officer, South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council*

**David Bini**

*Executive Director, Santa Clara & San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council*

**Maria Noel Fernandez**

*Campaign Director, Silicon Valley Rising*

**Derecka Mehrens**

*Executive Director, Working Partnerships USA*

Willow Glen Business Association  
1261 Lincoln Avenue #217  
San Jose, Ca. 95125

TIM MULCAHY  
Treasurer..

To the San Jose City Council and Mayor Sam Liccardo,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Willow Glen Business Association as not only a member property owner but as an 10 year member of the board including 3 years as President and the current C.F.O. and Treasurer. Over the past decade prior to the pandemic I've noticed the lack of foot traffic during work hours in our business district due to the commuting of our residents to other cities for work. When we instituted the road diet in 2015 the most vocal opponents of the lane reduction were commuters who viewed our business district as an obstacle to their travels. The businesses in the district see Lincoln Avenue as a destination. With that being said we believe that a development that will create thousands of jobs and homes within a few miles of our association should go a long way to help bring more patrons to the Lincoln Avenue business district.

The Willow Glen Business Association welcomes the Google Downtown Project and hopes it will be successful in transforming the area between downtown and our business district. We are hopeful that this project will spur investment on the northern portion of Lincoln Ave. More density around our business district is vital to the future success as we compete with Campbell for feet on the street.

I urge you to approve the project and help keep more San Jose residents working in this city and spending more in communities like Willow Glen..

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mulcahy and the W.G.B.A. Board..



Chair, **Christina Fugazi**, City of Stockton  
Vice Chair, **Leo Zuber**, City of Ripon  
Commissioner, **Jose Nuno**, City of Manteca  
Commissioner, **Doug Kuehne**, City of Lodi

Commissioner, **Nancy Young**, City of Tracy  
Commissioner, **Kathy Miller**, San Joaquin County

Executive Director, **Stacey Mortensen**

May 24, 2021

Mayor Sam Liccardo and the San Jose City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

**RE: San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) Support for Google at Diridon**

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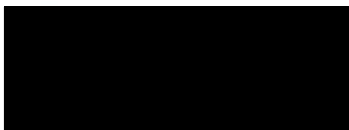
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Thank you very much for your consideration. If you or any of your representatives have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (530) 400-9475 or you can email me at dan@acerail.com.

Sincerely,



Dan Leavitt  
Manager of Regional Initiatives  
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission / Altamont Corridor Express (ACE)



949 East Channel Street

Stockton, CA 95202

(800) 411-RAIL (7245)

[www.acerail.com](http://www.acerail.com)

**Fw: Downtown West Public Hearing Comments Hearing 5/25/2021**

City Clerk &lt;city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

Wed 5/26/2021 8:32 AM

To: Agendadesk &lt;Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov&gt;

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main 408 535 1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Joanne Price <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 7:27 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Downtown West Public Hearing Comments Hearing 5/25/2021

[External Email]

Good evening Mayor and City Council

- I'm Joanne Price VP Real Estate & Operations for LifeMoves. As one of Silicon Valley's largest providers of homeless shelters and services we see tears every day: tears of sadness, tears of despair; tears of hard work and grit and tears of joy – so I understand Nancy's tears - the four year journey of this extraordinary project is not lost on me.
- We applaud the City of San Jose for undertaking such a bold project and working with Google on their vision to create this transformative project that is a model for the rest of the world on how to truly build an integrated community. We appreciate your leadership - it's a shining example of a public private partnership – which brings benefits equally to all.
- We look forward to continuing our long-term partnership with Google and City to address the immediate needs of this vulnerable population in the Downtown West and Diridon Area.
- Google has truly proven to understand the need for much needed jobs and housing at all levels (including the important but often unseen homeless population that LifeMoves serves) and is committed to building for the future.
- We are grateful for your partnership.
- Thank you.

Best  
Joanne**Joanne Price** | Vice President, Real Estate & Operations  
[REDACTED]

May 25, 2021

Mayor Sam Liccardo and Honorable Councilmembers  
San Jose City Council  
200 E Santa Clara St  
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Downtown West

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Honorable Councilmembers,

For over 60 years, Greenbelt Alliance has helped create cities and neighborhoods that make the Bay Area a better place to live—healthy places where people can walk and bike; communities with parks, shops, transportation options; homes that are affordable and resilient to the impacts of climate change. By promoting climate-smart development we can create thriving, resilient neighborhoods with ready access to transit and housing choices for all of the Bay Area’s people. Moreover, focusing development within the urban footprint is key to relieve sprawl pressure from our natural and working lands that provide countless climate benefits for our region. This is crucial as we face increasingly severe climate hazards like flooding, wildfires, drought, sea-level rise, and extreme heat, all of which disproportionately impact our frontline communities.

Over the years, San Jose has already begun the process of bold visioning that aims to address the shared needs of housing, neighborhood-serving retail, jobs, nature, and open space with programs like Climate Smart San Jose and San Jose Green Vision. It has the potential to continue down this bold, innovative path by again supporting dense infill housing near transit, like Downtown West.

Now, before the council is an opportunity to revitalize downtown San Jose. By focusing on transit oriented, mixed use development, San Jose will show their commitment to climate action and resilience while allowing for the protection of critical open space like Coyote Valley. Greenbelt Alliance urges the San Jose City Council to think boldly about the climate resilience of our region and its people and approve developments like Downtown West that increase access to open space, provide housing near jobs and help address our climate crisis.

Sincerely,

Justin Wang  
Advocacy Manager  
Greenbelt Alliance



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MICHELLE BOUCHARD  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 25, 2021

City of San José City Council  
200 E. Santa Clara St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
San José, CA 95113

Attn: San José City Council  
By Email: [city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov),

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Arenas, Carrasco, Cohen, Davis, Esparza, Foley, Jimenez, Mahan, and Peralez,

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Downtown West project proposed by Google, Inc. PCJPB is excited about the opportunity that this project represents for San José as well as for the growth in transit ridership it presents. San José Diridon Station is already the primary transit hub in the southern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area and, with the planned expansion of BART, commuter rail, high-speed rail, light rail, and supporting bus services converge at the station, will soon support more high-capacity transit connections than any other place in the Bay Area. It is the goal of all our agencies to develop a world-class transit center that provides smooth connections between modes and integration with the surrounding neighborhoods and destinations. We are pleased to see Google work with all public agency partners to support that vision.

PCJPB is supportive of the City of San José's efforts to coordinate and advance development in the Diridon Station area. The Downtown West project is the first major step toward realizing the long-term vision for an integrated and modern transportation hub. We are supportive of the overall efforts of Downtown West to promote non-vehicle transit modes, including bicycles and pedestrians, as the primary mode of access for the development. The Downtown West pedestrian-friendly design, lower parking requirements suitable for a downtown development, and robust transportation demand management (TDM) programs will go a long way toward meeting the City's ambitious climate goals. PCJPB looks forward to the continued partnership with the City to provide the greatest benefit to the traveling public within the Diridon Station area.

**PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD**  
1250 San Carlos Ave. – P.O. Box 3006  
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

We look forward to continuing our work with the City of San Jose and our transit and rail partners as we work toward creating a thriving transit-oriented community and increased connectivity for all in San Jose.

Sincerely,



Michelle Bouchard  
Acting Executive Director