



January 30, 2018

Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

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The Silicon Valley Organization

Re: Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG) Membership – Council Item 3.6

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and City Council:

On behalf of The Silicon Valley Organization (The SVO), I am writing to support City Staff's memorandum to approve the current membership of the Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG). By way of background, we are the Silicon Valley's premier business advocacy organization representing 1,400+ companies that employ nearly 300,000 workers and we represent our membership as the region's largest Chamber of Commerce.

I would like to applaud City Staff in their thoughtful approach in engaging community stakeholders to participate in the development of the Diridon Station Area and the potential arrival of Google to San Jose. As a strong advocate for job growth and economic development, I will point out that this is an incredible opportunity that will positively transform the City of San Jose for decades to come and The SVO welcomes the chance to potentially add thousands of new jobs to the city. These are critical, new jobs that the city urgently needs in order to address the current jobs to housing ratio imbalance.

The current proposed 35-member SAAG reflects a broad spectrum of stakeholders invested in key areas: placemaking, housing/transportation/education opportunities, environment, and economic interests. The size of the committee is consistent with previous groups, such as the 2040 General Plan Task Force. Furthermore, all members of the public will have an opportunity to weigh in through the public commenting process and nobody will be left out of the community engagement/feedback process. The City Council should not further delay development progress and proceed with staff recommendations to establish this important committee.

The SVO urges the Mayor and Council to approve council agenda item 3.6 and support city staff's recommendations for the SAAG membership. Should you have any further questions, please contact Eddie Truong, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, at 408-291-5267.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Mahood
President & CEO



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

January 26, 2018

San Jose Mayor and City Council
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Station Area Advisory Group Membership (SAAG) (Item 3.6)

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG), a core component of the community engagement process for the development of the Diridon Station Area and potential arrival of a Google office development. **We strongly support the staff-recommended design of the SAAG as well as the membership priorities of both geographic and content area representation.**

Over the next decade, close to \$10 billion of transportation investments will transform Diridon Station into one of the first high-speed rail stations in the country and the busiest transportation hub west of the Mississippi. SPUR's goal is for Diridon to become a great urban train station—a gateway to the Silicon Valley and a link between northern and southern California.

SPUR has been a leading voice regionally on transit and locally through our multi-year “Next Stop: Diridon” project, which has included hosting a design charrette for agency leaders in partnership with the German Marshall Fund; publishing guiding principles for Diridon’s transit service, governance, and development; organizing a study tour to high-speed rail stations in The Netherlands and France for elected officials, agency leaders and developers; and, informing and engaging the community through publications, an exhibition and over a dozen programs focused on station and station area development.

The development of seamless multimodal transit will be a catalyst for growth putting jobs, cultural uses, housing, parks and public space in one of the most accessible and sustainable locations in the region. However, the physical infrastructure is dwarfed by the importance of sustaining our diverse and creative community and creating an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all. As such, community input and transparent leadership throughout the planning phases of this project will be critical to the successful growth of central San Jose.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Station Area Advisory Group design and membership. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at _____ or _____ with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Teresa Alvarado
San Jose Director



January 30, 2018

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

Re: January 30, 2018 Council Agenda Item 3.6: Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG Membership)

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Honored Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Shasta / Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association (S/HPNA), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Station Area Advisory Group. S/HPNA was founded in 1984 to protect the interests of our historic and beloved community. Over the years, we have worked with the City of San Jose, developers, builders, and our neighbors to create a balanced neighborhood. We represent 1,400 households in neighborhoods immediately West of San Jose Diridon Station, and along the West of the current Caltrain corridor from Park Avenue in the South, to West Taylor Street in the North.

Since the first iteration of the Visual Design Guidelines, S/HPNA Board members have been involved in the planning stages of High Speed Rail's infrastructure and project mitigations. Therefore, we would like to thank you for acknowledging S/HPNA's substantial stake in the placemaking, environmental, and economic impacts that the development of the Diridon Station Area will have on our residents. We look forward to taking part in the City's Station Area Advisory Group.

S/HPNA supports the Memorandum from Councilmember Jimenez's office, dated 01/29/2018, proposing modifications to the SAAG membership. Agency staff will play a vital role in providing information and assistance to the voting stakeholders on the SAAG. Making Agency staff non-voting members allows for the inclusion of additional community organizations and advocacy groups, while still providing vital background and analysis.

S/HPNA is a neighborhood rich in history, and home to numerous Historic Landmark structures. Our current President is also the current Chair of the City's Historic Landmarks Commission, and our current Vice President lives in an Historic Landmark home. We are therefore more than a little troubled by the lack of inclusion of any aspect of historic preservation on the Station Area Advisory Group. When Brian Grayson, Executive Director of PAC-SJ, voiced this concern in email correspondence in late December, Kim Walesh ensured him that it was "an unfortunate oversight in the Memo". To date, this oversight has not been corrected, and the revised memo, dated 01/19/2018, does not propose any representation from the preservation community. With buildings such as Diridon Station and the San Jose Water Company at the heart of the proposed developments, this is, at best, short-sighted, and, at worst, a conscious exclusion.

We take pride in our neighborhood; S/HPNA Board members and volunteers have been diligent advocates and volunteers throughout the City for many years, and will continue to do so. Therefore, we ask you to match this dedication. Our community can only benefit from your support today. We look forward to being a part of the process to address quality urban planning, public safety, and truly livable amenities for the diverse community in and around Diridon Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Saum
President, Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association



January 30, 2018

Diridon Station Area Advisory Group,

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Friends of Caltrain is a 501c3 nonprofit supporting successful modernization of Caltrain as part of a well-integrated regional transportation network, accessible to all, supported by land use and policies encouraging sustainable transportation.

We have over 6,000 participants on the Peninsula Corridor from San Francisco through San Jose, including over 700 participants who live or work in San Jose. We help keep our participants informed on regional and local issues relating to sustainable transportation and policies including land use supporting sustainable transportation.

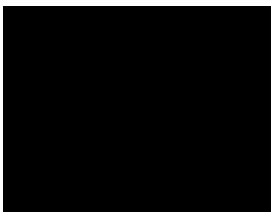
Executive Director Adina Levin also is an appointed member of the Downtown/Diridon Community Working Group for BART Phase 2 and the High Speed Rail Community Working Group for Santa Clara County, and served on the Community Stakeholder Group for VTA Measure B.

We are excited about the transformational changes, and the potential to increasing the share of sustainable transportation as the area evolves.

We would be happy to participate on the Diridon Station Area Advisory Group if a slot is available, and will in any event look forward to participating and contributing to informing people who live and use transit in the Diridon area.

Thank you for your consideration,

- Adina



Adina Levin
Friends of Caltrain
<http://greencaltrain.com>





January 30, 2018

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

**Re: Opposition to key components to the Proposed Station Area Advisory Group
Google Development**

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The decision as to whether the City of San Jose should sell some of our City's most valuable public lands to Google to build a mega-campus is one of the single biggest decisions you have grappled with. Given the impact of this potential project a real community engagement process is critical. The proposed Station Area Advisory Group as currently envisioned fails to include key stakeholders and by its very make up will do more to protect the interests of Google than our City's most impacted communities.

Allowing Google membership to an advisory group advising the City on its negotiations with Google is preposterous and is a direct conflict of interest. While having Google participate as an observer in the process is appropriate, they should not be voting members of the advisory group. Furthermore, the proposed membership includes a number of the following:

- Industry associations paid to lobby on behalf of Google;
- Organizations where Google staff serve on the Board of Directors;
- Organizations where employees of industry associations paid to lobby on behalf of Google serve on the Board of Directors; and
- Organizations where Google has significant financial ties;

The Office of the City Attorney should be directed to review the backgrounds of the proposed SAAG members for these conflicts of interest and disqualify individuals and organizations that work for Google, lobby for Google, have Google executives serving on organization's Board of Directors', or organizations that receive Google's largess.

One of San José's strengths is the unity of its diverse people. We thrive as a city—and a region—when we are inclusive and hear a broad range of perspectives from across the divides of gender, income, wealth, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion. The City Council would be doing a disservice to the people who elected them if they approve a SAAG comprised of members that will be a rubber stamp for whatever deal emerges from behind closed doors with Google.

The Station Area Advisory Group, as designed by staff, does not achieve the goals of an equitable, comprehensive and inclusive community engagement process. If this body moves forward in its current form, it will be difficult for it to produce the kinds of balanced and representative input the City Council should want and need to make the most informed decisions around the Google project and how our City will grow.

The SAAG membership must include the wide range of residents who will be negatively impacted by this proposed deal and who reflect the makeup of San Jose. Specifically, the advisory group should be amended to ensure the following:

- Tenants that will be impacted by rising rents and evictions as a result of this deal are represented;
- Including representatives of communities at greatest risk of displacement and gentrification outside of the downtown area that will nevertheless face impacts by the proposed development;
- Adding a representative of the thousands of houseless residents of San Jose given the potential of this project to increase homelessness;
- Ensuring the SAAG has racial and ethnic diversity that reflects our city and region

The Administration should explicitly task the SAAG with assessing and making recommendations to ensure that the benefits of this development, and not only the potential negative consequences, are shared more broadly with the community including specifically:

- Protecting families from extreme rent increases, evictions and homelessness through supporting tenants' rights and supporting production and preservation of extremely low-, very low- and low-income housing;
- Promoting racial and gender inclusion through programs to help local workers access high paying Google jobs;
- Standards to promote good, family-supporting jobs and a voice at work among subcontracted service and construction jobs generated by the project;
- Support for small businesses and other sources of employment also are at risk of displacement; and
- Mitigations to traffic and environmental impacts.

Each of these issues and more deserve the attention of the SAAG, and the Administration and Council should use this opportunity to gain valuable perspective on the challenges presented by this development.

Additionally, given the large number of voices involved in this process, the City should adopt the practice utilized by the Sunshine Review Task Force by allowing the inclusion of Minority Reports within any proceedings, reports or recommendations produced by the advisory group to ensure the minority has the option to record its opinions when significantly different opinions arise.



This City Council's decisions around the Google project have the potential to reshape the City of San Jose. This is why it is so vital that we have a robust, inclusive, principled and public discussion on how to ensure the best for the future of our families and neighborhoods to inform these decisions going forward.

Sincerely,

Silicon Valley Rising

Law Foundation of Silicon Valley

People Acting in Community Together (PACT)

Sacred Heart Community Services

From: Matthew Quevedo

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:13 PM

To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@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>; Liccardo, Sam <sam.liccardo@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Walesh, Kim <Kim.Walesh@sanjoseca.gov>; Taber, Toni <toni.taber@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>; Tran, David <david.tran@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: San Jose Downtown Resident's Association - Support for Item 3.6 - SAAG Membership

I was hoping to deliver this public comment but can no longer because of a work meeting.

The San Jose Downtown Resident's Association enthusiastically supports the Station Area Advisory Group as planned. We look forward to engaging with members of the community through public outreach, community forums, public surveys and community events. We believe that Neighborhood Association's are naturally built to assist with this type of group.

Unlike other community organizations, neighborhood associations are not concerned with where you live, what you live in, where you go to school, who you are employed with, who your favorite baseball team is or how you voted in the last election. All we care about is that you are our neighbor. As neighbors, we understand that we are all in this together. This is our neighborhood. We believe people who live around here should have a voice.

The San Jose Downtown Resident's Association looks forward to working with the other community organizations in the work group, working with our community members and working with the city council as we decide on what is best for the diridon station area.

Matthew Quevedo

President

San Jose Downtown Residents Association