



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo  
Vice Mayor Chappie Jones  
Councilmember Raul Peralez  
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** March 8, 2019

Approved by:

Date: 03/08/19

**SUBJECT:** Actions Related to the Downtown Airspace and Development Capacity Study

## RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation and direct staff to:

1. Work with the Council Offices to ensure community engagement is integrated into any land use update process related to new height changes.
2. Report back to the Airport Commission and City Council with an update within a year, if needed, on any feedback from the airlines.

## DISCUSSION

We want to emphasize that these recommendations do not in any way pertain to safety. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), airlines, and airport would not allow planes to take off if safety was in question. We will continue to rely on all of these entities to continue to ensure passenger safety.

Thank you to our airport staff, our Office of Economic Development, the steering committee, the Airport Commission, our airline partners, and all stakeholders involved for carefully studying and scrutinizing all elements of this policy update. Between the analysis done by our consultants, the engagement between airport staff and the airlines as well as the stakeholder outreach, we feel confident that the City has done its due diligence to affirm that the proposed recommendations will benefit both the City and the airport.

As Downtown San José urbanizes even further, we must build up rather than out to avoid more suburban sprawl. Efforts for this growth have always been stymied by a pendulum swing between a successful airport or a thriving Downtown. However, for the first time in our City's history, we can meet both goals with the proposed changes to our One Engine Inoperable (OEI) policy. The recommended Scenario 4 permits our airport to continue to grow while allowing approximately 9 million square feet of additional development spread across both commercial and housing. This growth means an increase in customers that would utilize our airport, ideally attracting and expanding our airline base.

While concerns have been voiced about the future health of our airlines, staff's supplemental memo quotes direct feedback from the airlines indicating that implementation of Scenario 4 would not affect airlines' willingness to extend their leases at Mineta San José International Airport.