

November 4, 2019

TO: Members of the City of San Jose Traffic and Environment Committee

FROM: Rick Spalding,

RE: Impact on recent and upcoming traffic issues in the Northside Neighborhood, and how the Vision Zero Plan may benefit traffic concerns

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit this letter for the November 4 meeting at 1:30 where the Vision Zero Plan will come to the Traffic and Environment Committee. I attended a community meeting recently for the Northside Neighborhood of District 3 and was made aware of the Vision Zero San Jose initiative, and I commend the Traffic and Environment Committee on supporting this plan to eliminate deaths and severe injuries on San Jose roadways.

During the meeting, though, a large group of local residents discussed existing traffic concerns, and potential upcoming plans that may significantly add to the amount of traffic in the neighborhood. I'm hoping that the Vision Zero initiative may be able to address these concerns, and may include added funding to put measures in place to calm traffic on our local streets.

I recently returned to my house at 424 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street after working for a city in the California central valley for ten years. Upon my return to San Jose, I saw that there has been an increase in vehicles driving quickly past my house (beyond normal speeding – more like racing past at 20 to 30 miles per hour beyond the 25MPH speed limit), especially in the evening hours. 19<sup>th</sup> Street is a wide street, which I assume makes this street more desirable for this type of activity. I've heard that 21<sup>st</sup> Street sees the same activity.

Additionally, with the upcoming opening of the new Berryessa BART Station, I'm concerned that this will increase traffic congestion in our residential streets. The Google expansion in downtown, which I'd imagine will add traffic along corridors leading to freeways and the Berryessa BART station, further adds to this concern.

After thinking about what was discussed at the neighborhood meeting noted above, I wanted to bring to you a few ideas and questions:

- I learned that all of District 3 has \$200,000 available each year for traffic calming measures – and that other Council Districts are provided the same amount, though District 3 has a disproportionately high number of traffic accidents and fatalities. The need for traffic calming measures in my district far exceeds the amount that can be afforded with the \$200,000 funding. I also learned that only ten traffic officers patrol the entire City of San Jose to focus on traffic safety. Are either or both of these issues part of what will be addressed through the Vision Zero initiative?

- While working for the city in the central valley, I became familiar with a process (CEQA) where the community could note concerns related to environment impacts, such as traffic, caused by significant developments, before the project was approved. I would imagine that the Berryessa BART Station and Google expansion would have gone through such a process. Was the impact on traffic in nearby residential areas discussed, and if so, were any measures to alleviate concerns – along with funding to realize these measures – identified?
- Are there any existing plans to set up traffic calming or enforcement solutions to residential streets in the Northside Neighborhood related to the speeding activity? I realize that funding is often provided based on documented activity, and I'm wondering how the activity would best be reported – contacting 311, contacting 911, sending email to my Councilmember, sending email to the Traffic Safety email address, etc. At the neighborhood meeting I attended, an SJPD officer mentioned that in the last few months, there were no reports of speeding on the streets in the neighborhood – despite several residents mentioning that they had reported such incidents. I'm guessing that their reports are not made to the correct person to be included in the statistics.
- Has funding by recent projects that will potentially impact Northside traffic (notably the BART station and Google expansion) been granted to address the impact of additional vehicle traffic?
- Is there anything that I or my neighbors can do to help the City of San Jose in addressing this concern? Can I write letters to other entities at the City or perhaps elsewhere asking for help? Can I write letters of support when grants are available to fund traffic control measures?

I realize that there are likely many neighborhoods in the City of San Jose that would like to see local traffic issues addressed, and that there is not enough funding to address all of them. However, I am hopeful that this letter will provide my perspective of what is, and potentially soon could be, happening in this area. Please reach out to me with any response or if I can be of any assistance.

Thank you

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