



Downtown-Diridon Community Working Group Meeting

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2025 (4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Location: San Jose Chamber of Commerce, Zoom

Attendees:

Members in Attendance: Alan Williams, Bert Weaver, Martin Flores, Chris Morrissey, Chris Shay, Kohar Scott, Annie Jones, Elizabeth Chien-Hale, Mick McLean, Ron Gonzales, Eric Eidlin

Members not in Attendance: Adina Levin, Carol Austen, Dana Grover, James Duran, Jeffrey Buchanan, Jose Magana, Kristen Brown, Larry Clark, Nate LeBlanc, Tony Mirenda, Elizabeth Fama, David Fenster, Kerry Adams-Hapner, Tala Fatolahzadeh, Chris Burton

Speaker Attendees: Ngan Nguyen (VTA), Brent Pearse (VTA), Erica Roecks (VTA), Greg Thiebaut (VTA), Aiko Cuenco (VTA), Eric Eidlin (CSJ), Nicholas Frey (CSJ)

Other Project Team in Attendance: Matt Derby (VTA), Erin Sheelen (VTA), Adriano Rothschild (VTA), Angela Chan (VTA), Brandi Childress (VTA), Tiffany Nguyen (VTA), Ali Mustafa (VTA)

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- VTA's Transit-Oriented Development Access Studies
- City of San Jose's Reimagining Santa Clara Street Vision Study
- Phase II Update
- Aligning the Project with Available Funding
- Construction Update
- Thriving Business Program (TBP) Update
- Next Steps

Follow-Up Items:

- CWG members to review the following Thriving Business Program (TBP) collateral items and send feedback to BSV EAT by 2/24/25:
 - Community-Based Organization Survey
 - Small Business Survey
 - TBP Guide
 - Construction Readiness Guide

Comments, Issues, and Questions		Response
Welcome and Introductions		
If you're already engaging with students, can you include design students from San Jose State University? I sent emails with a few contacts to reach out to and never got a response.		We will connect with you to figure out the next steps but would welcome design students into our current efforts. We will loop you into some other conversations that we've been having with the University and the urban planning program as well.
CWG Member Report Out		
I used the stakeholder toolkit and a couple neighbors showed up to the meeting. It's easy to use and it's getting the word out.		Thank you for the feedback.
After every meeting I share information with the Arena Authority Board, and from that I invited Martin Flores to come join us today. He has a substantial public infrastructure background and I'm guessing he will be attending future meetings as well.		Thank you for joining us today.
This is my first meeting and thank you for having me. I have 15 years of experience putting together the transportation systems downtown. I've been in the public sector and urban design my entire career and recently moved back to San Jose (my hometown) from San Diego, and I feel honored and excited to be here today.		Thank you for being here.
Where can I find the stakeholder toolkit?		If you did not see that sent out last Thursday or Friday from Tiffany Nguyen, it should be in your inbox or spam. Please let us know if you have any trouble finding it.
I do not see any stakeholder toolkit in my inbox.		One of our team members will send to you now.
VTA's Transit-Oriented Development Access Study		

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>I participated in an access study years ago. Is this going to supersede the transit study that I did before?</p>	<p>Station planning has been occurring over many years. In 2018-2019, VTA conducted access studies around three stations that resulted in Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) playbooks, looking at broader strategies within one-half mile of each station.</p> <p>This current study is focusing on development of the lot behind the Downtown San Jose station. It is a continuation of the previous study's effort.</p>
<p>City of San Jose's Reimagining Santa Clara Street Vision Study</p>	
<p>Was there a study done in 2018? East Santa Clara vision study – recommendations for building height and sidewalk width. If we spend a lot of time on those things, I assume that the input would get looked at and not just put away.</p>	<p>We are more focused on transportation and public space on this one. We are aiming to solidify previous efforts and bring them to fruition with a full design for the corridor. The study [referenced] looked at access around a mile away from our stations. One of the key differences is that VTA made high level recommendations. The City, who is responsible for making these changes, is now taking it to a higher design level. VTA partnered with the City to identify strategies and funding but did not focus on advanced design of the corridor.</p>
<p>Promise me that you're going to refer to that study and not duplicate efforts with something that was done many years ago.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>It looks like a very intense study. We're fortunate to have the Guadalupe River project right next door and having that opportunity to upgrade is important because it connects to so many things. The point of this study really seems like an opportunity to energize Santa Clara Street and increase walkability. It might be a great idea to look at connecting streets to improve walkability and general mobility for bikes and other modes of transit, not just the main street.</p>	<p>Thank you for the feedback. We agree that the Guadalupe Parkway is an important area, in addition to the SJSU area as well. We want to make a convenient connection but also a memorable connection.</p> <p>In some places, we can take parking away and relocate it to these perpendicular streets as you mentioned.</p>

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
How do we get to be on the communication list to be involved with this group of surveys that will be distributed?	We have a webpage with information. In the meantime, please email nnguyen@vtabsv.com and we will ensure that our outreach will be sent out to all of you after the meeting.
Phase II Update	
I'm not sure I understand the plan to let red states go first. Could you please explain that further? Are there projects in the pipeline that are good candidates to submit before this project?	We entered into the New Starts engineering program and heard from FTA in August that we would be awarded \$5.1B for the program. We had planned to submit our FFGA readiness document in April 2025. The suggestion from our federal lobbyists was to not be the first project to apply under this administration. There are a few other projects in the pipeline (noted Utah). VTA is seriously considering this guidance while continuing to balance the project's budget.
Aligning the Project with Available Funding	
On the 28th Street/Little Portugal parking structure, what has been VTA's experience with the parking facility at Berryessa versus what was planned? Is it being used at the predicted level? Is this saying that VTA does not think as many parking spaces will be used? Or is this just the first parking structure?	We are committed to providing 1,200 parking spaces but without a garage.
Which section of the tunnel will be shallower?	This is a high-level study so we do not have exact numbers, but from my understanding, it would be shallower at the East portal and at 28th Street Station. We would still need to maintain the ability to go under the creek.
In Task Force A alternative (<i>concurrent tunneling from the East, with a fully cut/cover station</i>), would the station design be totally different than the previous design?	The station experience would be the exact same. The boarding platforms would be on the side with trains going in the middle. The switchbacks would change to cascading escalators.

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
And will the station design stay the same?	Yes, to the best of our ability the station's design will stay the same. The diagram below shows a much more similar configuration to what was shown in 2022.
Construction Update	No comments.
Thriving Business Program Update	No comments.
2025 CWG Workplan	-
When is the Construction Transportation Management Plan going to be available for the Downtown San Jose community?	We are evaluating the timeframe on when we will resume that work. We will provide an update at our May CWG meeting.
November 11 th is Veteran's Day.	Comment noted. We will have to reschedule.

Next CWG Meeting: May 13, 2025, 4:00 PM, Zoom & In-Person

Prepared by: Angela Chan (VTA)
Concurred by: Ngan Nguyen (VTA), Matt Derby (VTA), Brandi Childress (VTA)
Distribution: CWG Members
 Project Team
 City & Public Agency Staff
 Distribution List