



Santa Clara Community Working Group Meeting

Date of Meeting: February 13, 2025 (4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Location: 2830 De La Cruz Blvd (Chesbro Conference Room), Zoom

Attendees:

Members in Attendance: Alden Smith, Jack Morash, John Urban, Ana Vargas-Smith, Rob Mayer, Jonathon Evans, Sean Collins, Todd Trekell, Sheldon Ah Sing

Members not in Attendance: Bella Burleigh, Ron Miller, Ryan Morfin, Jeanette Coran, Michael Liw

Speaker Attendees: Ngan Nguyen (VTA), Brent Pearse (VTA), Erica Roecks (VTA), Nicholas Frey (City of San Jose)

Other Project Team in Attendance: Matt Derby (VTA), Tiffany Nguyen (VTA), Angela Chan (VTA), Brandi Childress (VTA), Ali Mustafa (VTA), Greg Thiebaut (VTA)

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions & Announcements
- 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) items and send feedback to BSV EAT by 3/3/25:
 - Community-based Organization Survey
 - Small Business Survey
 - TBP Guide
 - Construction Readiness Guide

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
Introductions & Announcements	No comments.
I like the location for these meetings; it's close and convenient, which helps. I'm glad there is some positive change/construction updates going on now. There were times where it was financial updates only which became less engaging.	We're glad this is an accessible meeting for you to attend.
I wanted to thank everyone for getting back on track after the holidays. The timing is perfect to start re-engaging. The Cities are interested, the communities are waking up to it again.	Thank you for the feedback! I also followed up on your recommendation to engage with some specific business organizations.
There's a Santa Clara Station Area Task Force going on right now and I'm wondering how this group can engage with that effort. We don't have data or slides to back us up when we give announcements.	VTA has attended two Santa Clara Station Area Task Force meetings in the past and one of the earlier design charrettes that you all had. We (as the BSVII team and VTA Planning) are trying to stay in the loop and coordinating with the cities on the back end.
At least three of us are on that task force and can report out. If there are more formal topics that need a space to be shared, it's a good place to start.	If there is an opportunity to make a formal announcement or have a speaker guest, maybe our team could join.
The City of Santa Clara sets the agenda for those meetings. We can ask them to slot something, or we can reach out directly to them.	We'll reach out to our City partners first and then reach out to you if needed. Thank you!
CWG Member Report Out	
It's been pretty weak in terms of report out. Santa Clara University (SCU) has been generous in the past to lending us a room at their Campbell Avenue facility; it could be worthwhile to have an informal public meeting at that location to help spark peoples' interests. Speaking on my behalf only, it's nice to learn that the opening to the tracks is going more towards the SCU dorms, unfortunately for them. However, people are relieved to hear that it's not going to affect our neighborhoods as much as we thought it would.	Comment noted.

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
I post the pre-meeting materials on an in-person server to circulate. We are also coordinating with your team on school engagement efforts because there is a lot of interest from SCU in being involved from a faculty, research, career/internship, and tabling event level.	We look forward to partnering with you and getting your organization involved in our school engagement efforts.
About four years ago, I was part of a group that took a bus to Concord to see a construction facility similar to the West Portal site. Could we pique people's interests by bringing them to a site and providing an overview presentation on the work that is occurring? Maybe even a comprehensive flyover video would be a great way to get people excited.	There are more things to see now than there previously were, but that is something we will investigate, especially as the site becomes more active. We will be showing a flyover video today!
Thank you for the toolkits and social media posts. They are helpful and concise. The feedback has been engaging, and the tools are colorful and enticing; people are curious and it's working!	Thank you for the feedback!
It was difficult to get a link out of the stakeholder toolkit because of it being sent as a PDF. I eventually figured it out, but it might be something good to adjust moving forward.	We've received this feedback from other groups and will work on making our materials more accessible.
I've been sending out the information and newsletters about the upcoming meetings. It could be beneficial to have different sized documents (like a smaller flyer) to distribute depending on the source. We also have an upcoming in-person group meeting. If there are any handouts/materials, I would be happy to pick them up from you and coordinate the wider distribution. The event is on 2/26.	Thank you. We will coordinate with you separately.
I have not done anything with stakeholder toolkits. I will coordinate with the head of Reclaim Our Downtown and will be better at distributing the necessary information out to the community.	Comment noted.
I have not been super focused on disseminating the information packets provided but going forward, I will be.	Comment noted.

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>There is a new park underway, near Costco. It is scheduled to be completed in March and there is some administrative work with the City of Santa Clara to hand it over to them as soon as possible. A ribbon cutting event is expected to occur. The launch of the park will be dependent on the City's schedule. We will let you know as we have more information.</p>	<p>Yes please let us know if/when there is a park opening event that you would want us to have a table at.</p>
<p>VTA's Transit-Oriented Development Access Study</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
<p>City of San Jose's Reimagining Santa Clara Street Vision Study</p>	
<p>If you talk to people about why they never go downtown, the first reason is a concern about safety. I've been a part of several studies in the Santa Clara Station Area, and it appears that studies seem to go on the shelf and collect dust after being conducted. If people feel safer downtown, they will be more willing to spend their money downtown.</p>	<p>Great point. That is something we're incorporating into the planning process, by connecting with retail and other business partners downtown.</p>
<p>What's the interconnectedness between this and the two downtown BART stations?</p>	<p>This corridor fronts two of our stations, Downtown San Jose and Diridon Stations. We're working with VTA to support access to these major investments.</p>
<p>What's the timeline on this project? It's a huge challenge. It could be a great case study for other types of task forces.</p>	<p>We are looking at a 12-month schedule for this part of the planning process. One of the key elements of this study is to synthesize a lot of the thinking and studies that have already been done here and come up with a 10% plan/a more concrete plan so we can begin to look for funding to rebuild the street.</p>
<p>How have you engaged thus far with the Santa Clara Street business community (either the development community or property owners that are along Santa Clara Street)?</p>	<p>We are working to assemble our stakeholder lists and working closely with San Jose Downtown Association and other developers who have property on the site. We have our key set of stakeholders and will eventually include the general public. We are committed to working with the business community and especially small street businesses to support more vibrancy.</p>

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
I want to bring up the lack of cleanliness of Downtown SJ. Palo Alto has a street team to help beautify downtown which is an idea. It was difficult to know where to report and what ordinances were in place by the City of San Jose. It's not just about changing the street but also giving people tools to make this a more inviting space.	Great point. I highly suggest using 311 to report. We try to get crews dispatched as soon as possible. We also have the GroundWerx team downtown which is a partnership between the City and the business association. This is something we want to integrate into this design-how to keep streets cleaner and safer.
The City of San Jose needs to advertise 311 more and make it more accessible.	Comment noted.
I recently walked downtown and there were people with power washers. I think there is a fabulous set up that is already in place. From my understanding, formally unhoused people make up a lot of the staff and I think it's a great program that is doing good work.	Thank you for that feedback. It's something we are very proud of in San Jose and representative of the partnerships that the City is really trying to forge to work with our business community.
Phase II Update	
There hasn't been a consultant or subcontractor that doesn't go over budget. What kind of contingencies do we have to protect against KST going over budget?	There are contingencies in place that are built into our budget to account for that.
Aligning the Project with Available Funding	
In Task Force A alternative (<i>concurrent tunneling from the East, with a fully cut/cover station</i>), where do the savings come from? Is it because tunneling is incredibly expensive as opposed to cut and cover?	Yes. Initially there would be upfront costs in having to buy a second tunnel boring machine, but depending on the schedule savings, it could result in higher cost savings. Schedule savings is time savings which converts to cost savings, so this is what is being evaluated.
To confirm, you're leaving the space for parking and then changing it down the line once operations get going to transition it into a more robust maintenance yard?	This effort is to space-proof what can fit on the site. Initially, the phasing we were talking about was potentially some sort of storage tracks or very minimal things. But the full build-out that we see on the screen now shows some potential if we have parking that is not over a garage.
Were there any other design changes or refinements to the station itself or is this just reconfiguring the yard?	Just reconfiguring the yard and station infrastructure facilities. We'll have more engagement and discussion if this moves forward but wanted to keep you updated on what's being explored.

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
Do we have any updates of what the station itself looks like at this point? I'm not clear what the leading candidate is at this point.	The station has not changed from the last images that you saw. We had the design review committee meetings, and the size of the station entrance building was reduced slightly. That's the latest that we have, and the station designs have gone on hold since that point to direct all attention to cost savings. This is a very high-level concept as it stands right now.
I would recommend making it clearer to the wider community what the most recent station design is because it is not clear when navigating on the CWG page of the website.	Good feedback, thank you.
Have we been affected by the federal funding freeze?	VTA's federal lobbyists came to the Board of Director's meeting and provided us updates regarding the new administration. Based on their guidance, we are looking at a new time frame and evaluating the best time to move the FFGA funding forward.
Construction Update	
Is the night work going to be at the same noise level as day work or will it be scaled back?	There are different thresholds for night work versus day work and those will be maintained. We will have more details to come.
The Earthquakes have a hotline set up for urgent matters. That could be something helpful for your team to have.	We already have a project hotline and email set up for all inquiries.
Can you define "night work"? What are the hours of that?	Work will occur during the hours of 6am-6am. As there's deep Support of Excavation (SOE) walls that have to be built, there are concrete pours that require the 22–24-hour work period. This type of work is expected to go on for 15 months.
I have a question on the photo shown of the High-density Polyethylene (HDPE) Air Line; there is small text that reads "Altura Commons." That's in my neighborhood. Why is it there?	It looks like a geotag from the project camera. It is not taken from private property, as the picture was taken on the West Portal site.
Thriving Business Program (TBP) Update	

Comments, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>Thanks for clarifying that it's 500-ft from the corridor. That narrows it down to specific businesses. Have you already directly identified what those businesses are? Will you contact them directly with resources or are the businesses responsible for reaching out to your team for more information?</p>	<p>We received feedback from our board to have more flexibility. With that in mind, an approximate location for businesses who could receive marketing is a lot broader than businesses who are eligible for direct financial assistance. To answer your question, we are going to do a combination of both. We are going to do the best job we can to let them know that there are resources available to them and will have a project team member fully dedicated to this program.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p>	<p>No comments.</p>

Next CWG Meeting: May 15, 2025, 4:00 PM, Zoom & In-Person

Prepared by: Angela Chan (VTA)
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 Distribution List