

From: [Keyon, David](#)
To: [Downtown West Project](#)
Subject: Fw: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:52:39 PM
Attachments: [Scoping Meeting Comment Summary Downtown West.docx](#)

David Keyon

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From: Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Rood, Timothy <timothy.rood@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?

Hi Tim,

Well that took much longer than I thought I would to summarize the narrative in the transcript, so it makes sense. Timecard and phone shift didn't help the matter either.

I realize you probably don't need to know who made the comment, but I included the commenters names in the attached summary, so we can use it for our purposes as well.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend!

Shannon Hill, Planner
Planning, Building & Code Enforcement | Environmental Review Section
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From: Rood, Timothy
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Re: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?

Fantastic. Thanks so much Shannon, and sorry for the short notice.

From: Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 4:41:49 PM

To: Rood, Timothy <timothy.rood@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?

Hi Tim,

David let me know about your request. Surprisingly, there weren't many comments provided at the scoping meeting, so this task shouldn't take long. I have to get some information to ESA for the EIR before I leave today, but I can put it together tomorrow.

Thanks,
Shannon

From: Rood, Timothy
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>; Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?

I'm supposed to have the slides for the core team meeting Monday afternoon, so I'd need the material by Friday to be able to do this.

From: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Rood, Timothy <timothy.rood@sanjoseca.gov>; Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: RE: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?

Hi Tim,

Shannon and I can provide a summary to you next week. When would you need it by?

Thanks,

David Keyon

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From: Rood, Timothy
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Summary of Google EIR Scoping meeting?

Hi, is there a summary of input from the November scoping meeting? I've been asked to present to the SAAG next Thursday. I wasn't there, so I'll need something to work from.

Thanks,
Tim



Timothy Rood AICP, Division Manager
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Attendees of 11/7 Scoping Meeting

Based on the sign-in sheets, there were 62 attendees.

Comment Summary (not verbatim)

Verbal

- **Marshall Woodmansee:** Regarding construction, specifically on Santa Clara, Cahill, and Montgomery, can we expect better protection of cyclists and pedestrians from construction activity?
- **Liz Gonzalez:** Resident of East San Jose – She questioned outreach efforts and stated that the crowd in attendance was not representative of the various ethnicities. She was not happy with the brief presentation of the environmental review process, the rush to approve the project, and lack of transparency (didn't specify what was non-transparent). Regarding that, she provided the following list of issues she wanted covered in the EIR:
 - Flood Planning: Downtown is a flood zone, including the project area.
 - Emergency access and response with proposed closure of streets.
 - Economic and Social Effects: Referenced the opportunity zone next to Diridon Station and stated that it allows rich people to get richer and not pay taxes.
 - Asked to document loss of blue-collar jobs for potentially 20,000 high-paying jobs for "white men."
- **Kathleen Starr:** Lives on Rhodes Court – Stated that it appears there would be 10,000 spaces for cars associated with the project and "Open Space: Zero." (Note: Not sure what she is referring to, considering the plans.) Concerned that in addition to rapid population growth at the end of Sunol by Auzerias, the previously vacant space in the project area will attract thousands of people, and there is not sufficient open space. Expressed that human beings need open space and asked why the whole project area couldn't be converted to a park, especially considering proximity to Los Gatos Creek.
- **Nadia Aziz:** Works for Law Foundation of Silicon Valley – The project is going to affect all of San Jose, so the outreach meetings really should be happening throughout the City, especially in communities that will be most impacted, like the eastside. The meetings should be accessible to people in those communities and in languages accessible to people from those communities.
Suggestions for the EIR:
 - Environmental impacts of displacement. She noted that San Jose is already in a housing crisis and stated that the project would lead to 20,000 high-tech jobs entering the community and some service worker jobs. She is concerned that these low-wage workers will be pushed further and further from the city, which would result in environmental impacts.
 - She acknowledged the project is located adjacent to a transit hub but stated the analysis should also look at accessibility and affordability of transit for low-income workers.
- **Roland Lebrun:**
 - Scoping meeting was not well advertised, especially since the VTA Board meeting was the same night.

- Scoping Period Insufficient: Stated the scoping period was only 15 days and that it is typically 60 to 90 days. **Note that the NOP was circulated for 30-days, per CEQA Guidelines requirements.**
- Noted the blank space between the tracks and the Google project. Then he stated that if you look on the other side of Santa Clara and follow the tracks north, the way the project is designed would cut off all emergency vehicle access to the tracks. Stated that if something happens on Caltrain, the buildings proposed on the parking lot would not allow access for ambulance, fire, or other emergency services.
- Stated that adding 20 acres of streets in the Diridon Station area doesn't make sense in Downtown San Jose and that we need to move into the 21st century.
- Stated the project is not in line with Vision Zero and called it "Vision 100."
- **Kathy Sutherland:**
 - Curious about the impact boundary associated with construction and operation of the project and whether or not impacts to adjacent neighborhoods will be considered.
 - Wants to know how the new construction and people using bicycle or pedestrian transportation will interface existing 3-foot wide sidewalks.
 - Requesting that the EIR address impacts to adjacent neighborhoods that are over 100 years old.
- **Tessa Woodmansee:** Lives on Stockton Avenue and had concerns about the following:
 - Poor outreach: Stated she did not receive a card and that the 1,000-foot buffer doesn't include the most populated areas – called it gerrymandering. She lives in the Garden Alameda neighborhood and indicated that the outreach should have gone all the way to Taylor Street on Stockton and then all the way down to The Alameda.
 - Suggested broadband backup beeper for construction equipment, as is done in New York. Stated single-tone back-up beeper is destructive to our health and nervous system and isn't very safe. Suggested broadband back-up beeper made by Brigade Electronics.
 - Google Village should be car-free. Stated that the Downtown Business Association supports this.
 - Need to reduce fossil fuels to zero. Science is saying we have ten years to reduce by 50 percent. We have an opportunity with this project to do the right thing and not make the same mistakes of the last hundred years before we go extinct.
 - Stockton Avenue is a poorly designed street and needs to be improved as it becomes a boulevard into Google Village. Proposed a roundabout paid for by the pot of money that Google is supposedly presenting to the city for mitigations to improve our community. Stated that people go 80-100 MPH on Stockton currently because it's so wide. Need to create traffic circles and medians for traffic calming.
 - Julian Street: From Stockton going eastbound, it's not even ADA accessible (referring to "old-style" stairs. Also need bike lanes on Julian heading eastbound from Stockton. "Big promenade" on Julian should just be a walking pedestrian side as you go towards PG&E and needs to be ADA accessible.
 - Taylor Street: Needs to be fixed to be walkable and safe, and the intersection of Stockton and Taylor needs to be improved. It needs to be more like Campbell Avenue and made more of a promenade by separating cars from the pedestrians. Underpass under Taylor needs to be fixed.

- Air Quality: Live in a “community at risk” on Stockton Avenue going from Stockton all the way to the east hills. Stated BAAQMD indicating more stringent controls.
- **Harvey Darnell:** Stated he as part of SAAG and noted the following concerns:
 - Socioeconomics: Stated there will be 20,000 high-paying information technology jobs, and wanted to know what the ratio of non-information technology jobs is to each of those people? How many support workers would you need? How many people will be brought into this area? Wanted to make sure the EIR discloses that.
 - GHG Emissions: Concerned about GHG emissions associated with low-wage workers commuting by car into the City because they can’t afford public transit passes.
 - Cultural Resources: Make sure the EIR calls them all out. There are a lot of historic buildings in the area. Acknowledged some of them may need to be moved. Consider interface with the existing single-family historic homes of the Gregory Plaza neighborhood and the modern, high-rise project.
 - Biological Resources: Advocate of “daylighting” of Los Gatos Creek. Make sure the EIR calls out the sensitivity of Los Gatos Creek. If any part of the project touches Guadalupe River, make sure that is called out as well.
 - Population and Housing: Concerned about the mixture of how we make sure that we have places for those who are not being paid the high-level jobs, are housed in this area, whether they're housed here or somewhere else. I'd like to know what kind of displacement there will be and what the plans are to bring people in.
 - Transportation: At 5:30 in the afternoon, it can take 20 minutes to go from and Montgomery and Santa Clara to Bird and 280. So currently there is a large number of cars in this area.
 - Concerned that project is being considered in its silo. Ensure cumulative impacts of all these topics are seriously considered.
- **Gayle Frank:** Mostly interested in historic structures and resources in project area. Specifically concerned with the following:
 - Pig sign and Navlet's building
 - Sunlite Bakery building
 - Water Works building, and plans for use of that building.
 - Diridon Station: Very worried about plans to change the station and wants a clear description of plans for that.
 - Kearney Metal Works, Pattern and Metal Works buildings
 - Impact to historic neighborhoods nearby, in the Delmas area, and all the wonderful historic houses.
- **Mojgan Mahdizadeh:**
 - Based on what she ready, there are about 170 trees planned to be cut down. Wants to know carbon absorption we're going to lose as a result. Even if they are replanted, it takes many, many years to get to the same level of these mature trees.
- **Bill Rankin:** Lives in North Willow Glen and had the following concerns:
 - Separate pedestrians and vehicle traffic.
 - Los Gatos Creek: would like to see as many underpasses or bridges over roads to keep cars and pedestrians separate. One possibility is to have an underpass under Park, as

that gets developed, and any other street crossings heading north towards the Guadalupe. I would like to see as many bridges or underpasses as possible.

Public Comment Forms

- **Gayle Frank (also commented verbally):** Noted that she is interested in all historic structures in the area and what will happen to them with project implementation. Consider impacts to historic neighborhoods in project area and nearby.
 - Pig Neon Sign: Future plans and placement
 - Navlet's Building: Please save! Future plans for use.
 - Sunlite Building: Please save at least the Art Deco façade. Future uses?
 - Water Works Building: Future plans? She noted she understood it may become a community center.
 - Diridon Station: Very concerned with its preservation. What will happen to it?
 - Kearny Metal Works: It has a great history. What will happen to it?
- **Sheryl Ehrman:**
 - Biological Resources: Include impacts of construction activity and associated runoff into the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek and impacts to the plant and animal community.
 - Effects of project on housing displacement and on existing unhoused population in the area to be developed.
 - What organization will be maintaining the green space along Los Gatos Creek?
- **Adriana Garcia:**
 - Consider negative impacts to people of color, such as gentrification, and the consequences of that, such as school enrollment, housing market, and affordable housing.
 - Hold a forum at churches and schools to get community input.
 - Hold a forum on the "human capital" impact.
 - Offer forums in Spanish, Vietnamese, and other pertinent languages in the area and neighborhoods impacted the project.
 - Event had week outreach to communities of color.

Email

- **Marcia Cohen Zakai (email received 11/9):** Will Google use its own shuttles to transport its employees, or will VTA expand its bus service to provide for the transportation needs of Google employees and all residents in the area? We are in dire need of improved and expanded bus service, but it won't happen if Google only takes care of its own and relieves the VTA of its responsibility to provide fast and reliable transportation options.