
From: Jonathan Becher <jbecher@sjsharks.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:19 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; Liccardo, Sam; District1; Jimenez, Sergio; Peralez, Raul; Davis, Dev; District4; District5; District7; District8; District9; District 10; david.sykes@sanjoseca.gov
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: Sharks Sports & Entertainment - November 16th City Council Study Session on Diridon Station Area Plan & Downtown West Project

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

I am forwarding an email Sharks Sports & Entertainment sent earlier this morning to thousands of our fans and patrons of SAP Center who previously expressed concern about the future of the arena amid the historic changes being planned for the Diridon Station area.

For the past several years, we have been sharing our concerns regarding the proposed, massive development projects within the Diridon area which surrounds the SAP Center with city officials, Google, and other key stakeholders. Unfortunately, those discussions have yielded limited results and the planners of these projects appear intent on moving forward in a manner which could force the Sharks out of San Jose. We ask you to quickly resolve the looming street capacity issues, parking shortfalls, and construction impacts resulting from the planned Diridon neighborhood growth in a manner that does not jeopardize SAP Center.

We would be happy to meet with you before the study session to discuss these challenges and how the city can properly address them.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Becher
President, Sharks Sports & Entertainment

From: SAP Center at San Jose <events@sapcenter.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:10 AM
To: Jonathan Becher <jbecher@sjsharks.com>
Subject: ATTN: Share Your Voice to Protect the Future of SAP Center



Dear Friends of SAP Center at San Jose:

It's hard to believe it has been eight months since the last live event was held at SAP Center at San Jose.

As we head towards the end of 2020, everyone at Sharks Sports & Entertainment (SSE) and SAP Center hopes each of you continues to stay safe and that we can all be together soon.

We realize this is a lengthy communication but due to the urgency of these topics and your request to be kept updated, we respectfully ask that you read it in its entirety.

For more than a year, we have been sharing our concerns with you regarding the proposed, massive development projects within the Diridon area of downtown San Jose, which surrounds SAP Center.

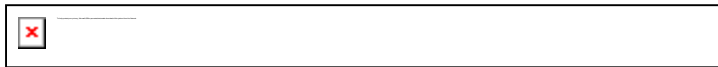
For the past several years, we have been sharing those same concerns with city of San Jose officials and Google. Unfortunately, those discussions have yielded limited results and the planners of these projects appear intent on moving forward in a manner that could force the Sharks out of San Jose.

We need your help to ensure this does not happen. Please read the **WHAT YOU CAN DO** section at the end of this communication.

Last month, the city of San Jose released their revised

[Diridon Station Area Plan](#)

(DSAP), which focuses on the redevelopment of approximately 250-acres within the Diridon neighborhood (yellow outline on map) and overlays Google's Downtown West proposed project.



Google also released the [Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report](#) (DEIR), along with their full Downtown West project plans. This project (pink shaded area on map) proposes the construction of up to 65 new buildings over an 84-acre area within the Diridon Station area – the largest development project in the history of downtown San Jose.

The DSAP, as currently planned by the city of San Jose, would add additional development in an area two times as large as the footprint of Google's planned Downtown West project.

There are three key areas within these proposals that will have an impact on SAP Center operations; street network access, sufficient available parking and the construction impacts of these projects.

STREET NETWORK ACCESS

The 2040 San Jose General Plan predicts that, in 20 years, 60% of all trips will still be made by automobile.

According to Google's DEIR, the developments within the Downtown West project alone are projected to increase the daily automobile trips to and from the Diridon area from the current 19,200 daily trips to 136,600 daily trips (a seven-times increase).

The remainder of the DSAP development, the extension of BART to Diridon Station, Caltrain Modernization and high-speed rail will each add thousands of additional daily automobile trips to the area.

However, the city of San Jose is planning on reducing the future street capacity for automobiles in and out of the Diridon area.

For example, [traffic on Santa Clara Street](#) – immediately in front of SAP Center – is proposed to be reduced from four lanes to two lanes (one in each direction) for automobiles.

Additionally, [the main routes connecting SAP Center to Highway 280 and Bird Avenue – Autumn and Montgomery Streets](#) between Santa Clara and Bird Avenue – are also scheduled to be reduced from four lanes to two lanes (one in each direction) for automobiles.

These changes will severely limit access for downtown employees, transit riders and SAP Center guests intending to reach the Diridon area by automobile. Most will have few, if any, other transportation options to reach the area for the foreseeable future.

PARKING

The Downtown West and DSAP projects combined could potentially bring more than 60,000 new workers to the Diridon area – 30,000 in Google’s Downtown West development and an additional 30,000 for development planned within the DSAP.

Google’s Downtown West project is proposing to provide only 2,850 parking spaces for their 30,000 employees and there are minimal increases in parking planned within the remainder of the area. Without an adequate supply of parking for the tens of thousands of additional cars coming to the area, the streets surrounding SAP Center are likely to be hopelessly gridlocked.

Again, these shortfalls will be exacerbated by BART, Caltrain and high-speed rail – each of which has no additional parking resources planned in the Diridon area to support their expected massive ridership.

IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION

We are also deeply concerned about the cumulative impact the construction of each of these projects will have on the ability of our guests to reach the arena, particularly over the next 10-15 years when many of these projects will be under construction simultaneously. There does not appear to be a plan that ensures SAP Center patrons can continue to safely and conveniently access the arena, and that our neighbors can maintain their quality of life during this transformational period.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Many of you have asked us how you can make your voice heard so that decision makers know that you care about the future of SAP Center.

The city of San Jose is seeking feedback regarding their DSAP plan [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of that webpage). You will also find other opportunities to provide feedback on the City’s [Diridon Planning page](#), including a [Community Meeting](#) on December 3, 2020 at 6:30PM.

Next Monday, November 16, the San Jose City Council is scheduled to host a [study session regarding Google and the DSAP](#) from 1:00PM - 4:00PM.

We hope that you will share your concerns with your local elected officials and ask them to ensure that City planners address the street capacity issues, parking shortfalls and construction impacts in a manner that does not jeopardize SAP Center.

For nearly 30 years, SAP Center has served as the city of San Jose's community arena, hosting a wide-ranging line-up of diverse sporting and entertainment events. It is imperative that the city of San Jose protect the arena and that these massive development projects are planned and implemented so that the City-owned arena can continue to operate *as one of the largest contributors to the economy of downtown San Jose*. Without this support, the arena simply cannot survive.

We thank you for your support in helping us preserve the viability of SAP Center for future generations to come.

[SHARE FEEDBACK WITH DSAP PLANNERS](#)

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