

From: [Zsutty, Yves](#)
To: [Mendez, Zacharias](#); [Burnham, Nicolle](#); [Ross, Rebekah](#)
Subject: Los Gatos Creek Trail - Think Big Proposal
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 8:08:34 AM
Attachments: [Slide1.jpeg](#)
[Slide2.jpeg](#)
[Slide3.jpeg](#)
[Slide4.jpeg](#)
[Slide5.jpeg](#)
[Slide6.jpeg](#)
[Slide7.jpeg](#)
[Los Gatos Creek Trail.pdf](#)

Rebekah, Zak,

We had a call with several City colleagues about 2 weeks ago. Tim Rood agreed to support our effort to include further enhancements for Los Gatos Creek Trail as part of the City's DSAP. He asked for a narrative and sample images.

I'd like a critical review of the following to make certain that we are seeking the best possible project and defining the work as clearly as possible.

I'd like to get this out for Friday if possible.

Thank you

Yves

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LEGEND

Bridge

Bridge or Under Xing

At-Grade Trail

Existing Trail

On-Street 2-way Bkwy

Existing / Designed Trail

Ped/Bike-Friendly

Traffic Signal

NOTE: All proposals subject to feasibility studies and coordination with Valley Water and US Army Corps



Julian St to St John St

Allocate 50' of "top of bank" along west side of river to complete the Guadalupe River Trail per the Master Plan.

Guadalupe River Trail to Santa Clara St

Option 1 (Bridge)

- Bridge over Guadalupe River
- Bridge over Santa Clara St
- Leverage existing trail through Confluence Pt & Arena Green West

Option 2 (Under-Crossing)

- Under-crossing beneath Santa Clara St
- Replace Santa Clara St "roadway bridge" to long-span
- Remove flood wall, reduce Confluence Pt, impact Public Art



Santa Clara St to San Fernando St

Option 1 (Bridge)

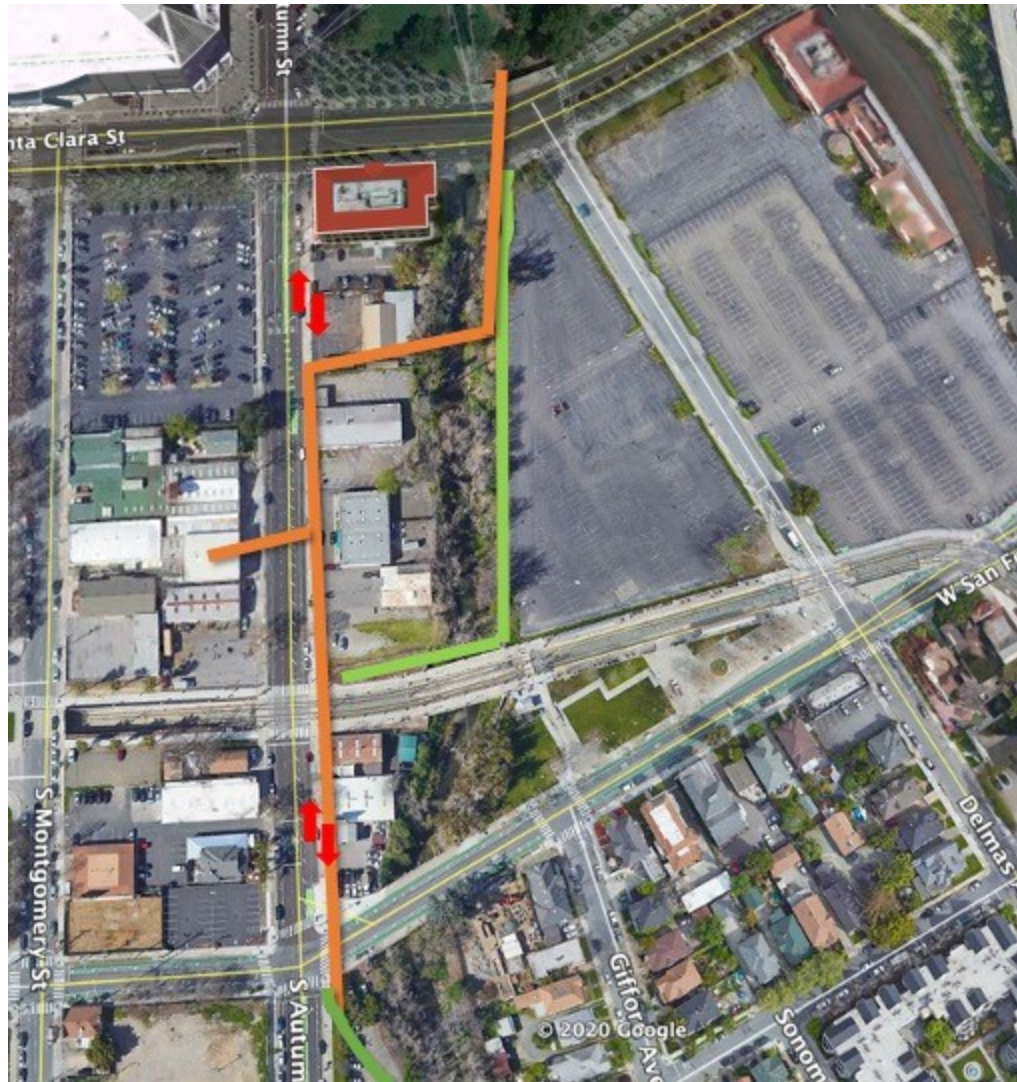
- Bridge for multi-use Class I Bikeway (Trail)
- Align trail behind buildings, west bank
- Use existing at-grade rail crossing
- Alter ROW for 2-way Class IV Bikeway on Autumn St (east side)

Option 2 (LRT Bridge)

- Alter (as needed) for multi-use Class I Bikeway (Trail)
- Use existing at-grade rail crossing
- Alter ROW for 2-way Class IV Bikeway on Autumn St (east side)

Option 3

- Long-bridge span...sustain elevation from n/o Santa Clara St to s/o San Fernando Street
- Consider elevated linkage to roof top or 2nd floor Community Center



Santa Clara St to San Fernando St

Option 3

- Long-bridge span...sustain elevation from n/o Santa Clara St to s/o San Fernando Street
- Consider elevated linkage to roof top or 2nd floor Community Center
- Sustain at-grade trail from Santa Clara St to existing LRT Bridge



San Fernando St to Park Ave

City to acquire properties along east bank of roadway. Develop meandering trail through park / open space.

Link trail to potential bridges to the north (San Fernando) and south (Park Avenue)

Option 1

- Alter ROW for 2-way Class IV Bikeway on Autumn St (east side)



Park Ave to s/o San Carlos St

Modify traffic signal as part of reconfigured intersection to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly (per 2008 Los Gatos Creek Trail Master Plan)

Develop Class I Bikeway Trail along west side of South Montgomery Street (per 2008 Los Gatos Creek Trail Master Plan)

Accommodate City's Reach 5B Under-Crossing and Trail (per 2008 Los Gatos Creek Trail Master Plan, with design at 90% completion)

Option 1 (Bridge)

- Bridge linking planned park spaces (between Montgomery and San Carlos)

Option 2 (Crossing)

- Under-crossing or Bridge at San Carlos Street as part of roadway realignment.



San Carlos St to Auzerais Ave

Develop Class I Bikeway Trail along east bank of creek.

Sustain Class I Bikeway Trail along west bank, sustain space for city's designed Reach 5B under-crossing and trail to Montgomery Street.

Option 1 (2-Way Bikeway)

- Develop Class IV Bikeway on north side of Auzerais Avenue
- Potential modification / widening of Auzerais Ave Bridge over Los Gatos Creek
- Crossing improvements to support trail to on-street bikeway connectivity.

Los Gatos Creek Trail

St John Street to Julian Street - West Bank Trail

Goal: Support continuity of the Guadalupe River Trail system along the west bank of the river per the GRP Master Plan.

Challenge: Intensification of urban development may encroach upon or assume lands once planned for park expansion.

Recommendation: Provide 50' of riparian setback (minimum) from top of bank to proposed buildings. This space will be allocated to bank stabilization, a 16' wide trail cross-section (12' wide AC with gravel shoulders) and 22' of landscape buffer. Development upon remainder of site should have "eyes on the trail" and park. Projects like the Erie Canal in Syracuse New York offer a good example of riverside development that preserves the riparian environment.



Santa Clara Street Crossing

Goal: Provide off-street continuity of the trail system and interconnectivity between the Guadalupe River Trail and Los Gatos Creek.

Challenge: The Los Gatos Creek bridge soffit is relatively low to normal creek flows which may make an undercrossing infeasible. High volume peak traffic may impact safety of an at-grade crossing and no signalized intersection is warranted nearby. Sufficient width for an under-crossing would likely require replacement of Santa Clara Street's existing bridge with a long-span bridge and demolition of a vertical flood wall.



Recommendation: Provide a means to cross Santa Clara Street beneath or above the roadway, with access points north of the street minimizing impacts to Confluence Point and its existing

Public Art pieces (highly likely with an under-crossing). Consider two bridges to support interconnectivity of trail systems, with 1) bridge span over Guadalupe River, from trail to Confluence Point (per PRNS's Activation Plan for Arena Green), and 2) a bridge span over Santa Clara Street, utilizing the under-utilized west bank trail (Arena West) and linking to the proposed east bank trail along Los Gatos Creek (former Water Co. Site). Building upon this bridge structure, sustain its elevation as it crosses over Los Gatos Creek to permit second floor access to planned sites (including community center) and spanning over the active LRT tracks and San Fernando Street. Consider a major bridge structure of significant width, similar to this structure found in the financial district of Shanghai China or the [Circle Bridge](#) found in Copenhagen Denmark.

NOTE: For all pedestrian bridge proposals, determine available space for gradual grades to support usage by persons of all abilities. Typical 5% to 8.33% grades may discourage use.

Additionally, develop 2-way Class IV bikeway "cycle track" along east side of Autumn Street to accommodate anticipated north and south bound travel seeking attractions along the east side of the roadway.

Alternatively, leverage proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge to provide access behind remaining structures between Santa Clara Street and the LRT Tracks with improvements to support better visual access to the creek, similar to this ramp and seating wall found in Ljubljana Slovenia. Offering creek side ped/bike access will support further activation of the site.



San Fernando Street to Park Avenue

Goal: Develop an urban green space within the DSAP Area, consistent with prior Diridon Station Area Plan and considered as part of the 2008 Los Gatos Creek Trail Master Planning process (but unresolved due to property ownership).

Challenge: Lack of land prevents immediate development of open space and trail alignment from Park Avenue to San Fernando Street.

Recommendation: Acquire some or all of the existing properties needed to support a creek side trail alignment and landscaped open space. (Propose that this remain a City obligation as resources permit).

Park Avenue to San Carlos Street

Goal: Navigate a constrained urban site.

Challenge: Develop a continuous trail that sustains opportunity for commercial / residential development and minimizes exposure to a large signalized crossing (Montgomery/Park)

Recommendation: Modify the intersection (via loss of Montgomery Street) to support a more pedestrian/bicycle-friendly crossing. Develop an off-street trail connection per the 2008 Los Gatos Creek Trail Master Plan from the traffic signal to Los Gatos Creek (West side of roadway, along SJFD Training Site). Insure sufficient allocation of right-of-way for development of this Class I Bikeway facility.

Alternatively consider a long-span pedestrian bridge overpass of the intersection from north of Park Avenue to the Los Gatos Creek Trail terminus at Montgomery Street (per 90% design documents prepared by the City of San Jose).



San Carlos Street to Auzerais Avenue

Goal: Develop a Class I Bikeway west of the Caltrain railroad tracks.

Challenge: Develop trail within a narrow space that may accommodate a range of recreational features.

Recommendation: Ensure sufficient clearance between trail and adjacent recreational features to support a safer experience. Contemplate a means to cross San Carlos Street other than an at-grade solution, exploring an underpass. Underpass must have significant width, excellent sight lights and uniform illumination.



Auzerais Avenue Bikeway

Goal: Support excellent continuity of the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

Challenge: Proposal for a parallel trail each of the creek channel (and railway) requires a Class I or IV Bikeway connection to support off-street continuity.

Recommendation: Coordinate with SJ-DOT for long-term improvements to Auzerais Avenue (widening, realignment, elevating, etc.) to support a high-visibility crossing or under-crossing of the trail system. Develop an off-street Class I or IV Bikeway facility along Auzerais Avenue to link the existing Los Gatos Creek Trail (west of the creek) to the proposed east Los Gatos Creek Trail (east of railroad tracks) per the development plan. General improvements to the right-of-way, including street trees, landscaping, lighting and other pedestrian and bike friendly improvements should be considered under direction of the Department of Transportation. Project may require alterations or replacement of the existing bridge structure over Los Gatos Creek. If so, consider potential for trail under-crossing.

