

From: [Zenk, Jessica](#)
To: [Downtown West Project](#)
Subject: FW: Downtown West April 28 Planning Commission
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 10:12:31 PM
Attachments: [Downtown West - Planning Commission SJDA letter of Support, 4.26.21.pdf](#)

From: Manford, Robert <Robert.Manford@sanjoseca.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:21 PM
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Subject: Fw: Downtown West April 28 Planning Commission

From: Scott Knies <sknies@sjdowntown.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Planning Commission 1 <PlanningCom1@sanjoseca.gov>; Planning Commission 6 <PlanningCom6@sanjoseca.gov>; Planning Commission 3 <PlanningCom3@sanjoseca.gov>; Planning Commission 4 <PlanningCom4@sanjoseca.gov>; Planning Commission 5 <PlanningCom5@sanjoseca.gov>; Planning Commission 2 <PlanningCom2@sanjoseca.gov>; Planning Commission 7 <PlanningCom7@sanjoseca.gov>
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Subject: Downtown West April 28 Planning Commission

[External Email]

Dear Planning Commissioners, please find attached the San Jose Downtown Association letter in support of the zoning, environmental and GP amendments for Downtown West on your Wednesday agenda. Scott

Scott Knies

Executive Director
San Jose Downtown Association

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April 26, 2021

City of San Jose Planning Commission
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

RE: Support for Downtown West zoning, environmental and General Plan amendments

Dear Chair Caballero and Planning Commission members,

The Downtown West development plan is a community-created vision for transforming 80-acres into a transit village and central social district on the westside of downtown. The General Plan amendments, re-zoning and environmental documents before you on April 28 represent a vast improvement over the area's previous Diridon specific plan. The San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA) urges your approval of items 8a and 8b.

While the project's 7.3 million square feet of office space, 4,000 housing units (25 percent affordable) and 15 acres of parks and open spaces have grabbed most of the attention, SJDA would like to highlight how the Downtown West plan will strengthen neighborhoods by directly investing in initiatives co-created by community members during a two year public outreach process.

One such initiative will focus on small business resiliency, entrepreneurship and ways to help small businesses make Downtown West a home. Google will work directly with businesses on the ground floor design of Downtown West to ensure their proximity is central to the project's new open spaces. Half of the developable parts of the site will go to non-office uses – housing mostly – but 500,000 square feet is planned for “active” spaces. Those spaces include food, drink, retail, cultural, arts and education uses.

Downtown West will strive to create a “15-minute city” where work, home, shopping, entertainment and recreational uses are all situated within a 15-minute walk. The project also will invest in a greener future in terms of net-zero emissions, ecology and mobility infrastructure – in essence, the equivalent of removing 4100 cars from traffic and powering 1500 homes using solar energy.

The necessary land use updates, certifications and approvals before you April 28 are a critical milestone as we embrace a new vision for San Jose that integrates neighborhoods, nature, equity and economic growth.

Onwards -- and with the heights and densities in Downtown West -- definitely upwards.

Sincerely,

Scott Knies
Executive Director

Cc:

Mariel Caballero, Chair
Rolando Bonilla, Vice Chair
George Casey
Jorge A. Garcia
Justin Lardinois
Pierluigi Oliverio
Deborah Torrens
Chu Chang
Tim Rood
Michael Brillot
James Han
John Tu
Jose Ruano
David Keyon
Shannon Hill
Nanci Klein
Kelly Kline
Katia McClain
Nathan Ulsh
Nate LeBlanc