

**From:** [Burnham, Nettle](#)  
**To:** [Phan, Johnny](#); [Downtown West Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Save Our Trails: Input for the Downtown West project  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:36:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [SOT Input for Downtown West Project - FINAL.pdf](#)

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**From:** Bill Rankin <bill@networks.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:21 PM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; Cicirelli, Jon <Jon.Cicirelli@sanjoseca.gov>; Burnham, Nettle <nicolle.burnham@sanjoseca.gov>; Zsutty, Yves <Yves.Zsutty@sanjoseca.gov>; Sewell, Liz <Elizabeth.Sewell@sanjoseca.gov>; Zenk, Jessica <Jessica.Zenk@sanjoseca.gov>; SOT Board <sot\_board@saveourtrails-scc.org>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Cc:** benavidez@google.com; Bethany Windle <bethanywindle@google.com>

**Subject:** Save Our Trails: Input for the Downtown West project

[External Email]



The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San José, CA 95113

**SUBJECT:** Input for the Downtown West project

May 18, 2021

Honorable Mayor Liccardo, members of the City Council, and staff:

**Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities** is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation whose mission is *“To promote trails in*

*Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all.*” SOT has important input into the plan for Downtown West to ensure the highest quality project, especially since Google has shown itself to be a very good neighbor and partner for San Jose.

Save Our Trails does have some concerns even though there are very positive elements of the plan. The overall design is open and airy, and while the public has access to the plazas and other amenities of the fifteen acres of park space, only five acres are actual city parks. We understand that Google can, and plans to, close all the POPOS (privately owned public open space, including The Meander) for days on end. We would like to seek confirmation that the Los Gatos Creek Trail and the various ways to access Diridon Station are public and will not be closed or impacted by private events.

Another area of concern is the at-grade crossing of The Los Gatos Creek Trail (LGCT) across Park Avenue and Montgomery Street. Google and the city are planning the biggest development that San Jose has ever seen and it seems like this particular crossing is an afterthought. Along the entire length of the LGCT, thousands of people use this trail every week and many will use it to commute to Diridon, this development, and North San Jose. Vehicular traffic on two thoroughfares would need to be stopped each time a trail user travels along that section of the trail, and we know this is likely to be a heavily trafficked section around Diridon. The campaign to daylight the creek under Montgomery was in part to allow for the trail to follow that route unimpeded by vehicular traffic. Now that it has been decided that daylighting won't happen, we are urging consideration for a bridge over Montgomery and Park to solve the problem of crossing these two very busy thoroughfares at grade.

In addition, we are thrilled that the city and Google have designed a spur for the LGCT to follow the railroad right of way after the tracks get raised for a direct connection to Diridon Station from the south. SOT would like DOT and Google to consider leaving Park Avenue below-grade where it is and keep the railroad bridge intact. This would not only allow the trail to cross above Park Avenue while remaining at grade but it would also create a large space that could be a nice place for new parkland. This could even be San Jose's smaller version of New York City's High Line.

Thanks to Google and to city staff for creating a design for the future of San Jose. Save Our Trails urges the city to consider this input into the plan for Downtown West.

Sincerely,

Bill Rankin<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

President, Save Our Trails; Web: <http://www.saveourtrails-scc.org>

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# Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

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