

From: [Moua, Louansee](#)
To: [DowntownWestD6](#)
Subject: Fw: Proposed Google Project Will Benefit All San Jose Residents
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 11:32:28 AM

From: Mike Wright Sr. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 6:10 PM
To: District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Re: Proposed Google Project Will Benefit All San Jose Residents

Council Member Davis-

I am a native of San Jose, born in San Jose Hospital in 1947, where my Mom was an OB nurse. I worked 20 years at Good Sam in Finance Administration, leaving in 1995 when they were purchased by Columbia Inc., a for-profit public company. I then spent 10 years with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency as Assistant Director of Finance and Administration, followed by 7 years as Finance Manager with the City of Campbell. I have resided on Westgate Ave. in Willow Glen for the last 35 years. I grew up on Baywood Avenue behind Valley Fair (lived there before the first Valley Fair was even built !, now Valley Fair is one of the most appalling places in San Jose, grossly overbuilt and a traffic nightmare !) Valley Fair and subsequently Santana Row basically stifled the RDA's efforts to create retail in downtown in the early 90's as Council repeatedly rejected Frank Taylor's proposals. Now you have the two largest traffic congestion areas in the City and the VF and Santana row expansions are not even complete. I won't go there anymore.

With regard to Google, not everyone is enthralled with this project. Since I retired in 2013, I've seen the quality of life in San Jose go in the tank, in my opinion. The traffic is horrendous at any time of day, the neighborhoods are shabby and run-down, even "nice" neighborhoods are choked with parked cars and motorhomes to the extent property owners cannot even park in front of their own residences, the majority of neighborhood streets are in need of major repair (driven down Cherry Ave between Willow and Minnesota lately? Coolidge? Just the tip of the iceberg), and the crime seems to go completely unchecked; in my "nice" neighborhood in the last two years, my neighbor two houses behind me (on Cottle) was shot by a group of teenagers during a random break-in; in August of 17, I was privileged to have the SWAT team detonate flash-bang grenades two streets over (Marsha) as the PD chopper was circling overhead trying to flush a shooting suspect who had barricaded himself in a neighbor's home; the assaults and robberies carjackings etc. are minor in comparison I guess.

Somehow, the concept of adding 20,000 jobs (most towns in California aren't this big) in this small project area and thinking its a great idea is baffling to me. The "transit -oriented" concept is the figment of some planners imagination. What will happen when you bring in that many people and build that many dwelling units is that the traffic will be even more ridiculous, there will be two cars for every unit built and they will all be going somewhere at some time. Do you really think that Google or any other employees will be taking public transit? Some might, but the majority won't, they will be driving from somewhere else. The quality of life in San Jose will continue to deteriorate. Not to mention, all high density residential on West San Carlos is not even built yet ! (BTW , I remember discussion at the RDA about the BART station location in downtown in 2004-05, where is it? They can't even get it to Berryessa 13 years later).

The "right" thing for Google to do is take their \$220 million and build campuses outside of Santa Clara County where there is room to grow and people can afford homes and not have to commute. The City can then re-purpose these properties for a more suitable, low density , less damaging purpose that will truly benefit all residents. Once Google is in the door, it will be the tail waggin' the dog. Give Dan Rich a call.

Thanks for listening.

Mike Wright

-----Original Message-----

From: Office of Councilmember Dev Davis <district6@sanjoseca.gov>

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, Dec 3, 2018 3:27 pm

Subject: Proposed Google Project Will Benefit All San Jose Residents



Proposed Google Project Will Benefit All San Jose Residents

On December 4, the San Jose City Council will hopefully vote to sell key government-owned properties in the Diridon Station area to Google. The vote will also include an agreement that lays out the process for developing the millions of square feet of office that Google has proposed, along with the retail, restaurant, hotel, and residential space that they want to accompany their offices. As a San Jose Councilmember representing the Diridon station area, I will vote yes to invite Google to proceed with plans to bring an innovative project to San Jose. This project will contribute millions of dollars of tax revenue annually and tens of thousands of jobs to a city that comes up short on both every year.

The Diridon Station Area has long been planned for expansion as a multi-modal hub in a growing urban landscape. The plan for the station area was approved in 2014 and includes almost 5 million square feet of commercial space, 420,000 s.f. of retail and restaurant space, 2,588 residential units, 900 hotel rooms, and public open space. You may also remember that a major league ballpark was meant to be the centerpiece of this area. With the ballpark no longer a possibility, the Diridon Station Area Plan was due for a rewrite.

San Jose was lucky that Google stepped in as a major developer for this area when they did. With over two dozen community meetings held so far, Google has helped jumpstart the process for envisioning a new station area plan while proving that they want to be a good neighbor. The community input process will continue

into the next phases of the project, just as it does for all major developments in San Jose.

As a councilmember who values data, I'm excited about the job growth and tax revenue estimates that were calculated by city consultants for this proposal. While Google is expected to bring about 20,000 of their workers to San Jose, these jobs will have a ripple effect on our local economy to the tune of an additional 60,000 related jobs. While these 80,000 total new jobs will not be enough to fix our jobs-housing imbalance in San Jose, it will provide a much-needed boost to our City's economy and more opportunities for our residents to work locally and cut their commute times.

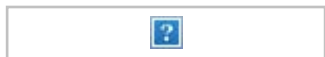
Preliminary estimates for annual revenues from the commercial component of the proposal are between \$19 million and \$25 million per year just for the City of San Jose's general fund. The residential component would add an additional \$9 million to \$15 million per year. Taken together, that's enough to add 180 badly needed new police officers to our police department and still add funds to our other core services - the fire department, parks, libraries, and road maintenance.

In addition, the San Jose Unified School District and Santa Clara County will benefit from millions of additional property tax dollars- up to \$45 million for the district and \$14 million for the county annually. These new funds could be used to raise teacher salaries, provide more mental health services, and help our most vulnerable residents.

Working with Google representatives over the past months has confirmed to me that they are a company that wants to do right by our community. Thousands of their workers already call San Jose home. Those workers want and should be able to shorten their commute by riding transit, bicycling, or walking to work. This is the kind of company we want to grow in San Jose - one that becomes part of our urban fabric in an environmentally friendly way.

The majority of residents who have written to me about this proposal have expressed support. I welcome anyone wanting to learn more about the Diridon Station Area and the proposed Google project to check out the dedicated website set up to inform the community about this historic opportunity for San Jose: <https://www.diridonsj.org>.

An edited version of this **piece** recently appeared in the Silicon Valley Business Journal on November 30, 2018.



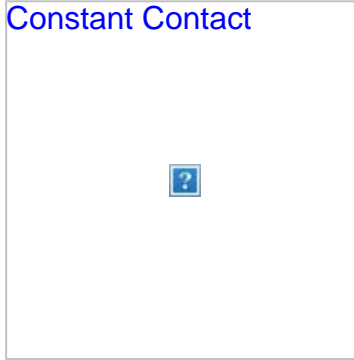
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