

County of Santa Clara

Roads and Airports Department
Planning, Land Development and Survey

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SUBJECT: Downtown West Mixed Use Plan Draft EIR (Google Project)

The County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department (The County) appreciates the opportunity to review the Downtown West Mixed Use Plan Draft EIR (Google Project), and is submitting the following comments:

1. This project has a regional impact therefore traffic circulation study should also analyze major gateways in/out of the County and to the project site. Gateways to include freeway corridors such as
 - US-101,
 - SR-87,
 - I-880,
 - I-680,
 - I-280.

During peak times the freeways are very congested and many project trips would not use the freeways but more of the local streets. Therefore the Project Study should identify these routes and include them in the impact analysis.

2. Please consider additional queueing analysis at freeway on/off-ramps near County facilities, such as
 - Capitol/680,
 - Almaden/87,
 - San Tomas/Montague/101, and
 - Montague/880.
3. The TDM specifically mentions and relies on several transit projects being completed to achieve projected VMT reduction thresholds (VTA LRT, Caltrain electrification, BART to Diridon). The initial five-year period for the TDM annual report shall begin after these transit projects have completed.



4. In the TDM analysis - “The Project would be required to achieve the 27 percent effectiveness of a TDM program that incorporates all reasonably available CAPCOA TDM measures.”: Please submit annual TDM effectiveness report to assure the project is consistent with the 27% effectiveness goal. Include and propose changes to the TDM if necessary, to meet the stated goal.
5. With VTA’s newly proposed Transit Service Plan (TSP) with as much as 30% service reduction, the Study should revise transit reduction credits to match VTA’s TSP.
6. The LTA identified the study intersection at De La Cruz/Central Expwy would operate at an unacceptable LOS. VTA’s US 101 Southbound/Trimble Road/De La Cruz Boulevard/Central Expressway Interchange Improvements project was identified as the possible mitigation measure. Will city agree to be subject to any cost share? Propose a different mitigation measure if City is not planning on cost sharing.
7. Neighborhood Traffic and Parking Intrusion Analysis: submit initial monitoring report for review of the potential neighborhood cut-through traffic, speeding concerns, and parking intrusions generated by the proposed project. The final Neighborhood Traffic Intrusion Plan should be flexible and should be adjusted to reflect observed travel patterns in surrounding neighborhoods to include the **Burbank** community and other County pocket facilities. Include parking plan or revise current proposed TDM to address these concerns if demand exceeds cut-through traffic threshold.

If you have any questions or concerns about these comments, please contact me at 408-573-2462 or ben.aghegnehu@rda.sccgov.org

Thank you.