

**From:** [Bill Souders](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission 1](#); [Planning Commission 6](#); [Planning Commission 3](#); [Planning Commission 4](#); [Planning Commission 5](#); [Planning Commission 2](#); [Planning Commission 7](#); [Zenk, Jessica](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Liccardo, Sam](#); [Foley, Pam](#); [Perez, Raul](#); [Jimenez, Sergio](#); [Mahan, Matt](#); [Carrasco, Magdalena](#); [Sykes, Dave](#); [Arenas, Sylvia](#); [Jones, Chappie](#); [District4](#); [Cohen, David](#); [Esparza, Maya](#); [Davis, Dev](#); [Jon Gustafson](#); [JGoddard@sapcenter.com](#); [Sonya Herrera](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Planning Commission Meeting 28APR2021: The Sharks are justified in their concerns about Downtown West  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:59:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [SOUDERS submission to planning commission 28APR2021.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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[External Email]

April 28, 2021

To: San José Planning Commissioners

From: Bill Souders, SAAG Member

Re: Concerns about the lack of DOT planning for Downtown West

**The San José Sharks are completely justified in their concerns.**

San Jose's Department of Transportation DOES NOT have a plan! It is all just magical thinking with no articulation about how the city intends to manage this enormous complexity.

BART, High Speed Rail, extensive track realignment, 4000 residential units required to secure their own parking, remediating the "super-fund" site that is Lots A-B-C, the new Urban Confluence Icon, the approval of a 19-story, 272-room hotel shadowing the Hotel DeAnza with only five assigned parking spaces, a proposed rooftop patio on the Market Street garage, DECADES of construction, raising building heights with no PLAN for the undefined *Community Air Support Service Fund* to cover airlines' losses, no change to Union Pacific RR's bisecting the site and the quiet neighborhoods to the north. The list goes on...

Have you ever ridden your bike to a Niners game at Levi's Stadium (normally in the daytime)? How many people does Shiloh think will be riding their bikes, from points unknown across the city (along the dark Guadalupe River Trail), to Sharks games AT NIGHT?

SJ DOT DOES NOT HAVE A PLAN!

San José has slowly become the next Detroit due to the short-sighted leadership in the city since the late 1990s. This is especially evident as we are continually on the verge of bankruptcy (even through the greatest economic expansion in history).

Two decades ago, city leaders decided to guarantee ludicrous pensions, without a PLAN to pay for them. And taxpayers now contribute nearly \$500 MILLION per year to make up that shortfall. The city did not have a plan for that 20 years ago and SJ DOT does not have a PLAN for what this endeavor will take in the next 20 years! [Just imagine the things we could be doing with an additional \$500M per year.]

Now the city is DESPERATELY trying to solve all of our financial problems with this BIG BANG approach, without ANY OVERALL PLAN to manage all of this complexity. This is a recipe for DISASTER! Keep in mind that if you combine EVERY PENNY of the land sale with the estimated \$200M in community benefits accrued over the next 30 years, it is less than ONE YEAR OF OUR TAXPAYER CONTRIBUTION TO UNFUNDED PENSION OBLIGATIONS!!!

This is not a GOOGLE problem; this is a CITY problem! We need to move forward with our new partner, yes, but we need to do so once we have a TANGIBLE path forward. And not just for our desired end state in 2050 but through decades of disruption to our downtown core. **The city continues to kick the can down the road!**

How many others that “reside” along Santa Clara Street will also determine that it is time for an exit strategy?

With much trepidation,

*Bill Souders*



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**To request a time to meet:** [Here's my calendar link](#)

Live as if you were to die tomorrow.

Learn as if you were to live forever.

--Mahatma Gandhi, 10/02/1869 - 01/30/1948



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