

November 19, 2019

Items # 3 and 4

Julie Minot

From: Susan Hinton <suewalt@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 9:40 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: "Innovation Zone" + "Complete Streets in Innovation Zone," Nov, 19 Agenda Items 19-1083 and 19-1082

November 18, 2019

Dear Mayor Gillmor and City Council Members:

Tomorrow evening, November 19, City Council Member Teresa O'Neill returns to the council with agenda items 19-1083 and 19-1082, which involve a slightly updated "Request Related to the City's Participation in an 'Innovation Zone' with the City of San Jose for the Stevens Creek Corridor."

The Council is being asked to agree to the study in which "The Innovation Zone will allow companies and groups to test anything within its boundaries that provides a large benefit to the community . Companies and startups will work directly with the Office of Vice Mayor Jones to facilitate these partnerships" (wording from agenda PDF document, 19-590 from May 2019, <https://tinyurl.com/tq8fdvs>) .

Wording in a separate document that the Council is also being asked to approved, for Agenda item 19-1082, is below. Note that 1) The 2 documents do not say the same things, and 2) it appears as though only "groups" and "companies" will be able to actually suggest "innovations." The citizens of Santa Clara AND San Jose, especially those living between Pruneridge and Highway 280, seem to not have direct input into this process. Perhaps they'll be regaled with a "survey" late in the process which will not provide time for citizens to do anything except become frustrated. I suggest that the Council refuse to approve these Agenda items until they are rewritten so that transparency, citizen inclusion, and respectful listening is included in every step toward whatever "report" that the "study" finally produces.

"WHEREAS, the City of Santa Clara General Plan contains Circulation policies that include complete streets elements; and WHEREAS, the City of Santa Clara adopted Resolution 18-8593 on August 21, 2018, which adopted a Complete Street Policy to support the design of roadways to safely accommodate all users including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, children, senior citizens, disabled people, and motorists. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City of Santa Clara supports a study exploring transit options including Complete Streets along the Stevens Creek Boulevard corridor.
2. That the study considers high capacity transit options, including grade separation, for the Stevens Creek Boulevard corridor, that connects the Cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, and Cupertino, that is supported by and developed in collaboration with, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.
3. That the options considered in the study do not adversely affect streets in the City of Santa Clara."

Finally, I would like for the Council to know that my absence from the Council meeting is not an indication of my lack of caring - rather it is because I cannot be in two places at once. On Tuesday evening, November 19, as a volunteer I am first scheduled to teach reading to an adult for the program Read Santa Clara, and then my husband and I will attend the Parks and Recreation meeting in order to point out, once more, that paving Fatjo Field with synthetic (plastic, non recyclable) turf is the exact opposite of being environmentally responsible.

Sincerely,
Susan Hinton
20 year citizen of the City of Santa Clara,
in the section now known as District 6