

City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue Santa Clara, CA 95050 santaclaraca.gov @SantaClaraCity

Agenda Report

19-1083 Agenda Date: 11/19/2019

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Consideration of Councilmember O'Neill's Request Related to the City's Participation in an "Innovation Zone" with the City of San José for the Stevens Creek Corridor

BACKGROUND

On April 30, 2019, Councilmember O'Neill sent an email (Attachment 1) to the City Attorney, City Manager, and Assistant City Clerk requesting that an item be placed on a future City Council agenda related to the City's participation in an "Innovation Zone" to test emerging technology.

Per Council Policy 30, "Adding an Item on the Agenda" (Attachment 2), the Mayor or any individual Councilmember may submit a written request to the City Manager's Office for inclusion of an item on a City Council agenda, provided the request is received at least two days prior to the public release of the agenda packet. It is worth noting that the City Council Policy does not require a staff report on the matter, rather the request for it to be added for future consideration.

At the May 21, 2019 City Council meeting, Item 14 on the agenda, Action on Councilmember's O'Neill's Request Related to the City Participation in an "Innovation Zone" (Attachment 3) was heard and a motion was passed to continue this item as staff did not have sufficient information on the proposed Innovation Zone in the City of San José at the time. On September 5, 2019, Councilmember O'Neill provided additional information (Attachment 4) to staff regarding the proposed Innovation Zone and requested that the City Manager calendar the topic for discussion at a future City Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Office of Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones in the City of San José has been working to designate a portion of West San José (Districts 1 and 6) as an Innovation Zone. 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. As an initial goal, through a meeting with Mayor Lisa Gillmor and City Manager Deanna Santana, Vice Mayor Jones represented that there was comfort with beginning with an expression of support for the purpose of working together and collaboratively.

Staff has coordinated with the City of San José and currently, only the staff within the Office of Vice Mayor Jones has been assigned to this effort. Each project request will be handled on a case-by-case basis and additional San José City staff will participate as needed based on the specific request. San José's Vice Mayor's vision of the Innovation Zone is to engage community members and technology companies to pilot the latest innovative concepts in Silicon Valley.

As part of this process, there is agreement that opportunities for innovation would not be limited to

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the region covered by the San José Vice Mayor's Council District and the proximate City of Santa Clara Council District. Additionally, conversations occurred with the Vice Mayor/Office of the Vice Mayor's staff that confirmed such designation does not in any way limit innovation to any specific region within City of Santa Clara boundaries and that the City of Santa Clara will continue with other innovation opportunities regardless of this geographic designation. Accordingly, and within the above context, the Office of Vice Mayor Jones is requesting the City of Santa Clara to participate by designating a portion of Santa Clara as part of the Innovation Zone. The proposed boundaries for Santa Clara are Pruneridge Avenue from the North, Interstate 880 from the East, Interstate 280 from the South, and Saratoga Avenue from the West (Attachment 5). A point of contact will need to be assigned to work with the Office of Vice Mayor Jones to process and coordinate requests for testing within Santa Clara's portion of the Innovation Zone if the City decides to participate. Additionally, staff time will need to be allocated to facilitate discussions with potential companies or groups, as it is likely that they will have questions regarding access to City infrastructure, permitting requirements, etc.

At the January City Council Operational and Strategic Priority Setting Session, staff discussed departmental workplans and major strategic issues our organization is facing. After the two-day session, the City Manager received input on individual councilmember's priorities. Of the 48 priorities that were submitted, 29 were funded as part of the FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21 Proposed Operating Budget. This proposed item was not included in the Proposed Budget as it surfaced after that discussion and has not been considered against other work schedules or priorities. To the extent that this is just a symbolic gesture of collaboration, as has been suggested, there will be no workload impacts. To the extent that projects surface that require coordination with the City of San José, given that they too do not have dedicated City staff resources, both municipalities would need to dedicate City resources.

It would be expected that the Department of Public Works would take the lead in supporting this process. This would be an unplanned assignment, and staff would need to determine the level of staff support and budget needed. Based on past staff experience working on similar efforts in other jurisdictions, to successfully participate in this type of effort requires dedicating an experienced staff that can work quickly to address any demands or needs from the potential private parties interested in piloting new technology in Santa Clara.

It is worthwhile to note that staff has recently taken on additional unplanned workload such as:

- overall transportation coordination efforts regarding the Stevens Creek Boulevard Corridor,
- creation of a Bicycle and Scooter Share program,
- installation of a new High Intensity Activity Crosswalk (HAWK) on Lick Mill Boulevard,
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA) related improvements adjacent to Levi's Stadium resulting from a Settlement Agreement, and
- Pruneridge Avenue Complete Streets Study.

Additionally, the recent approval of the Related Santa Clara Multimodal Improvement Plan and the City's Bicycle Plan 2018 will require dedicated staff time in the immediate future. Depending on the level of effort involved in this project, it could require delaying other projects or funding for consultant support.

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact other than staff time for preparing this report. Depending on Council action, additional staffing and budget may be required. At this time, there is limited information from the City of San José about the workload coming from the proposed Innovation Zone project, so staff is unable to provide a cost estimate.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and City Manager's Office. Additionally, staff received information from the City of San José for the preparation of this report.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. Approve Councilmember O'Neill's Request Related to the City's Participation in an "Innovation Zone" with the City of San José for the Stevens Creek Corridor and direct staff to return to Council at a future date with a proposed workplan and funding strategy to support this effort.
- 2. Defer decision on this request until the upcoming City Council Operational and Strategic Priority Setting Session
- 3. Do not approve this request.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff makes no recommendation.

Reviewed by: Craig Mobeck, Director of Public Works Approved by: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. April 30, 2019 Email from Councilmember O'Neill
- 2. Council Policy 30 Adding an Item on the Agenda
- 3. Report to Council (RTC 19-590) Action on Councilmember's O'Neill's Request Related to the City Participation in an "Innovation Zone"
- 4. September 5, 2019 Additional Information provided regarding the proposed Innovation Zone
- 5. Proposed Map



City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue Santa Clara, CA 95050 santaclaraca.gov @SantaClaraCity

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19-590 Agenda Date: 5/21/2019

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Action on Councilmember O'Neill's Request Related to the City's Participation in an "Innovation Zone"

BACKGROUND

On April 30, 2019, Councilmember O'Neill (Attachment 1) sent an email to the City Attorney, City Manager, and Assistant City Clerk requesting an item be placed on a future City Council agenda to adopt a resolution related to the City's participation in an "Innovation Zone" to test emerging technology.

Per Council Policy 30, "Adding an Item on the Agenda" (Attachment 2), the Mayor or any individual Councilmember may submit a written request to the City Manager's Office for inclusion of an item on a City Council agenda, provided the request is received two (2) days prior to the public release of the agenda packet. It is worth noting that the City Council Policy does not require a staff report on the matter, rather the request for it to be added for future consideration.

DISCUSSION

The Office of Vice Mayor Charles "Chappie" Jones in the City of San José has been working to designate a portion of West San José (Districts 1 and 6) as an Innovation Zone. 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.

His office is requesting the City of Santa Clara to participate by designating a portion of Santa Clara as part of the Innovation Zone through the adoption of a resolution. The proposed boundaries for Santa Clara are Pruneridge Avenue from the North, Interstate 880 from the East, Interstate 280 from the South, and Saratoga Avenue from the West (Attachment 3). A point of contact will need to be assigned to work with the Office of Vice Mayor Jones to process and coordinate requests for testing within Santa Clara's portion of the Innovation Zone if the City decides to participate.

At the January two-day City Council Operational and Strategic Priority Setting Session, staff discussed departmental workplans and major strategic issues our organization is facing. After the two -day session, the City Manager received input of individual Councilmember's priorities. 48 of those priorities were submitted and 29 of the 48 priorities were funded as part of the FY 19/20 and FY 20/21 Proposed Operating Budget, including one on intelligent traffic lights using IOT. This item was not included in the Proposed Budget as it surfaced after that discussion and has not been considered against other work schedules or priorities.

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Therefore, if the Council would like staff to explore the topic of participation in the Innovation Zone, staff recommends adding this item to the list of Council priorities for consideration as part of the current budget cycle. It would be expected the Department of Public Works would be the staff lead in supporting this process. This would be an unplanned assignment, and staff would need to determine the level of support needed. Depending on the level of effort this could require delaying other projects or funding for consultant support.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact other than staff time for preparing this report. Depending on Council action, a fiscal impact will be determined in the future.

COORDINATION

This report has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and City Manager's Office.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff makes no recommendation.

Reviewed by: Manuel Pineda, Assistant City Manager Approved by: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Email from Councilmember O'Neill
- 2. Council Policy 30 Adding an Item on the Agenda
- 3. Proposed Map

From: Teresa O'Neill

Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 5:06 AM

To: Deanna Santana < <u>DSantana@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Brian Doyle < <u>BDoyle@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Nora

Pimentel < NPimentel@SantaClaraCA.gov >

Cc: Manuel Pineda < MPineda@SantaClaraCA.gov">, Craig Mobeck < CC: Manuel Pineda MPineda@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Craig Mobeck < CMobeck@SantaClaraCA.gov>;

Genevieve Yip < GYip@SantaClaraCA.gov>

Subject: Request for agenda item on participation in Innovation Zone

Good morning, Deanna, Brian, and Nora-

I am requesting that at first opportunity, we added to the agenda of a city council meeting an item to discuss the council approving by resolution Santa Clara's participation with the City of San Jose in an "Innovation Zone" in the general area of the Stevens Creek corridor to do some testing of emerging technologies, primarily focused on transportation. I have been working with Council member Chappie Jones of San Jose on this project. Part of this effort is the transportation study that VTA is doing on Stevens Creek at the request of Santa Clara, San Jose, and Cupertino. I am attaching a Power Point presentation that San Jose put together.

I am having some device issues, so jpgs of the 2-page draft resolution (from what San Jose is working from) will be coming from Genevieve Yip. San Jose is requesting that we have a council resolution to show our interest in participating in some testing efforts. Craig Mobeck did attend a meeting at VTA recently with me on the proposal. Other than agreeing to look at some testing efforts, at this point there doesn't appear to be very much support required from Craig's staff. I talked with Manuel about this last night, and he said there had been some staff discussion about the concept.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like me to write a memo to go with the agenda item, which I can work on in the next couple of days if needed. Thank you for processing this request.

Sincerely,
Teresa O'Neill
Council District #4
<Stevens Creek kick off presentation.pptx>



ADDING AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA

PURPOSE

To establish a clear, effective and easily understood process for members of the City Council and the public to have items within the jurisdiction of the City Council, placed on the City Council agenda for consideration.

POLICY

Members of the City Council:

 The Mayor or any individual Council Member may submit a written request to the City Manager's Office for inclusion of an item on a City Council agenda, provided the request is received two (2) days prior to the public release of the agenda packet.

Referral from a Council Committee:

- 1. Council Committees may submit a written request to the City Manager's Office for inclusion of an item on a City Council agenda, provided the request is received two (2) days prior to the public release of the agenda packet.
- Council Committees may bring forward a recommendation to the full City Council by way of the Committee Minutes, which are typically prepared within three weeks following the Committee meeting.

Items Referred During a Council Meeting:

By Council consensus, an item may be referred to the City Manager for inclusion on a City Council agenda. If the request requires further study of the item from staff, a full analysis shall be prepared at the direction of the City Manager with at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the meeting, unless otherwise directed by the City Council. If the request requires more than thirty (30) calendar days to prepare, status updates will be provided to the Council every sixty (60) days as an informational memo.

ADDING AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA (cont.)

Written Petitions and Public Presentations:

- 1. Any member of the public may submit a written request raising any issue or item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council to be heard under the "Written Petition" section of the City Council's regular agenda within two (2) Council meetings after received. After the initial Written Petition is placed on the agenda, a simple majority vote of the Council may add the item to a future Council meeting for action.
- 2. Any member of the public may address the City Council under the "Public Presentations" section of the agenda. If the presentation includes a request of the Council, the Mayor or a consensus of the City Council may refer the item to the City Manager to be properly agendized at a future meeting, in compliance with The Brown Act.

PROCEDURE FOR WRITTEN PETITIONS

All requests to address the City Council shall be submitted in writing. Written Petition forms are available for the petitioner's convenience on the City's website and in the City Manager's Office, City Clerk's Office and the Mayor and Council Offices. Alternatively, an email may be submitted to clerk@santaclaraca.gov.

Once the Written Petition is received by the City Clerk's Office, it should immediately be forwarded to the City Manager for placement on an agenda within two (2) Council meetings after receipt of the original request from the City Clerk's Office. All written material (request and support material) will be submitted on the agenda in the form substantially provided by the requester without any staff analysis, including fiscal review, legal review and policy review, until the City Council has had the opportunity to provide direction to the City Manager.

At the meeting where the item is first considered, if a simple majority of the City Council supports further study of the item, then a full staff analysis shall be prepared within thirty (30) days, unless otherwise directed by the City Council.



From: Teresa O'Neill < <u>TONeill@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>> Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 11:05 AM

To: Deanna Santana <<u>DSantana@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Brian Doyle <<u>BDoyle@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Nadine Nader <<u>nnader@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Nora Pimentel <<u>NPimentel@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Manuel Pineda

<<u>MPineda@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>>; Craig Mobeck <<u>CMobeck@SantaClaraCA.gov</u>> **Subject:** Fwd: Stevens Creek Corridor Transit Study & Innovation Zone Follow-Up

Good morning, everyone—

I have been remiss in not requesting that an agenda item be put on an upcoming agenda to have some follow-up discussion on the Stevens Creek Corridor Transit Study and the Innovation Zone proposal.

In the message that I am forwarding from Vice-Mayor Jones's office, there is a copy of a resolution that the City of San Jose passed affirming San Jose's commitment to supporting the Stevens Creek corridor study process. As you may recall, Santa Clara, Cupertino, and San Jose went together to draft and sign a letter to VTA management requesting that a major transit study be done of the Stevens Creek corridor to come up with proposals to alleviate the growing traffic problem. VTA agreed to do the study and has secured funding for that study. Some months later, VTA communicated to council representatives (and I believe some staff) that based on prior experiences with the extensive studies that were done related to Bus Rapid Transit on the Stevens Creek and El Camino/Santa Clara Street/Alum Rock Avenue corridors, VTA wanted evidence of a deeper commitment from the three cities to the corridor study and implementation of recommendations.

As I believe that participation in the corridor study will be a benefit to Santa Clara residents and businesses, I would like to bring to the council a resolution affirming our support of the study. The resolution can be quite simple and I can provide a first draft if that would be helpful. Acknowledging my delay in getting the resolution back to the council, in order to advance the corridor study, I am requesting that this be agendized as soon as possible. This is a follow-on to the discussion we had at a council meeting earlier this summer where there was a general indication of support from the council for the corridor study.

At that same meeting a couple of months ago, we discussed getting Santa Clara's support for the "Innovation Zone" concept for the territory on either side of Stevens Creek Boulevard. There seemed to be a little confusion about this idea, also brought forward by San Jose Vice-Mayor Jones. I have since talked further with people about the Innovation Zone and attended a presentation by the Silicon Valley group from Mercedes Benz on a pilot they want to put forward in this area. I can provide an update to the council to see if there are additional concerns.

Please let me know when we can have this on the council agenda and if you have questions. I am ready to do whatever legwork is needed fo facilitate this.

Thank you.

Regards, Teresa O'Neill Get <u>Outlook for iOS</u> From: Mohsen, Raania <Raania.Mohsen@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 4:24:16 PM To: Teresa O'Neill <TONeill@SantaClaraCA.gov>

Cc: Jones, Chappie < Chappie.Jones@sanjoseca.gov >; Gomez, David < David.Gomez@sanjoseca.gov >;

Kohl, Cassidy <Cassidy.Kohl@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Stevens Creek Corridor Transit Study & Innovation Zone Follow-Up

Hi Council Member O'Neill,

Vice Mayor Jones asked that I follow-up with you. We are pleased to hear that you have or will be submitting a memo soon requesting the Stevens Creek Corridor Transit Study Resolution and Innovation Zone items be placed on an upcoming council agenda. Regarding Stevens Creek Corridor, I have attached a pdf packet of all jurisdictions' staff reports and passed resolutions thus far for your record. (We are waiting for Santa Clara;) In addition, I have attached the FAQ for the proposed Innovation Zone.

Last, regarding the Mercedes/Bosch presentation at the recent WNAC meeting, it is my understanding that they are not sharing their slides at this time. However, I have attached our City's presentation on Autonomous Vehicles for your review.

If you need additional information or have any guestions, please let us know.

Best,

Raanía Mohsen

Deputy Chief of Staff Office of Vice Mayor Chappie Jones San Jose City Councilmember, District 1 San Jose City Hall | 200 E. Santa Clara St., 18th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113 408-535-4901









Innovation Zone FAQ's

What is the "Innovation Zone"?

• The Innovation Zone is an area of West San Jose and a portion of the City of Santa Clara that Vice Mayor Jones and Councilmember Davis have identified as an area where new technologies can pilot.

Is there an opportunity for community involvement in the technology testing?

Yes! Involving the community in these pilots is a large goal of the Innovation Zone. We envision
companies working with community members of all ages to create a mutually beneficial
experience. The companies get real-world feedback and the community gets to engage and
learn from these exciting new concepts.

What kind of technology will be tested here?

• The Innovation Zone will be open to all concepts that have a community benefit. The goal is to see new technologies that highlight the creativity and innovation of Silicon Valley!

Where will these technologies be tested within the Innovation Zone?

• That all depends on what the new technology is. Some pilots may take place on sidewalks or streets, while others may utilize the "Innovation Hub".

What is the "Innovation Hub" and where is it?

• The Innovation Hub is an area where new technologies that require a physical space will be piloted. This area can also serve as a space where youth groups and community members can engage with new pilot programs. We have not yet solidified our Innovation Hub location, but we hope to share it soon!

When does the Innovation Zone officially launch?

• This year! We are still solidifying some details but we are hopeful the launch date will be in early Fall 2019.

How will start-ups and companies begin the process of piloting their project in the Innovation Zone?

• For all things related to the Innovation Zone, connect directly with Cassidy in Vice Mayor Jones office at Cassidy.kohl@sanjoseca.gov.

Autonomous Vehicles for the Greater Good

City of San Jose, Department of Transportation

Jill North, Innovation Program Manager

Guiding Principles for AVs in San Jose

- Promote safety for all users
- Reduce the environmental impacts of total vehicle miles traveled
- Build a balanced transportation system
- Improve mobility for all
- Create livable communities
- Obtain data for transportation planning



Request for Information Initiative

- City of San Jose AV RFI released June 1, 2017
 - Reflected the goals and core values of the City
 - RFI demonstration for other major cities
 - Local, state and national coverage
- RFI closed July 28, 2017
 - Received a total of 31 responses

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
Pilot for Autonomous Vehicle Technology



"this proactive approach to autonomous vehicles can provide an example of how cities can get out in front of technologies and ensure that we drive the technology toward public value."

- GovTech Magazine June 2, 2017

Key Takeaways from this Effort

- Testing AVs in San Jose with a purpose
- Utilizing this technology to solve critical challenges for our residents
 - o Safety
 - Mobility
 - o Equity
 - Sustainability
- Data
 - New tool for cities



Julie Minot

Susan Hinton <suewalt@comcast.net> From:

Monday, November 18, 2019 9:40 PM

Sent: Mayor and Council To:

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/tg8fdvs).

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