



28th Street/Little Portugal Community Working Group Meeting

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2021 (4:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.)

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Members in Attendance: Elma Arredondo, Dee Barragan, Carlos Diaz, Bela Ferreira (on behalf of Ricardo Agredano), Terry Christensen, Danny Garza, Matt Gustafson, Mimi Hernandez (on behalf of Connie Alvarez), Helen Masamori, Chris Patterson-Simmons, Bill Rankin, Justin Triano, and Davide Vieira

Members not in Attendance: Cobán López and Eric Thacker

Other Speaking Attendees: Bernice Alaniz (VTA), Gretchen Baisa (VTA), Ron Golem (VTA), Olga Medina (VTA), Pete Rice (City of San José), and Michael Smith (VTA)

Project Team in Attendance: Kate Christopherson (VTA), Joseph Clayton (VTA), Adriano Rothschild (VTA)

Project Team not in Attendance: N/A

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Follow-up Items
- En Movimiento Update
- Phase II Update
- Phase II Funding
- Phase II DBE/SBE Opportunities
- Real Estate & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
- Community Outreach
- CWG Member Report Out
- Review Action Items and Next Meeting Dates

Follow-Up Items:

- More detail on how VTA is coordinating with construction projects (*response provided below*)
- More details on station access and safety at future meeting

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
Follow-Up Items	
No comments	
En Movimiento	<i>This update and the responses below were provided by representatives of the City of San José.</i>
There are concerns that people using walkers (or are slower in general) feel unsafe crossing the street at roundabouts since traffic does not have to stop.	Thank you for your feedback. We have heard similar feedback on the San Antonio roundabouts. The City typically evaluates new traffic infrastructure once implemented, but implementation has taken longer over the last year due to backed-up supply chains. Once roundabout is complete, the City will evaluate over 3-6 months, including collecting public feedback. Using data and feedback, we will determine if changes are needed.
What plans are there for José Figueres Ave?	<p>Concepts for all projects are provided on the En Movimiento site. https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/transportation/planning-policies/east-san-jos-mtip</p> <p>Right now, it's a bike boulevard.</p>
Who maintains roundabouts?	The City is currently responsible. May investigate some type of community-based maintenance.
In the future, think about extending the 21st Street bike boulevard south of William Street — either paralleling the Coyote Creek Trail on 21 St. or better, following the Five Wounds Trail along 22nd St. 22nd is narrow and heavily parked, so it's difficult for cyclists now and will be worse when the trail is completed beyond that segment.	Thank you for your suggestion. The City does want a connection to both of those trails. We haven't done design yet for 21 st Street.
Is the City planning to do outreach on the E San Antonio St changes? There has been unfavorable discussion on NextDoor around some of the changes on San Antonio St. Please consider putting up flyers a few block each way. Two	The City is inviting the community to the Community Advisory Group meeting in June. Expect robust discussion on San Antonio St. We have heard from the council offices on this topic. We will

neighborhood associations straddle San Antonio Street – Olinder and Roosevelt Park.	consider using fliers to publicize this meeting.
Would like to see Plata Arroyo on Community Advisory Group list.	Comment noted.
Bike lanes should go down Alum Rock Ave, not San Antonio St. We oppose bike lanes on San Antonio Street.	Comment noted. City appreciates your advocacy. We know you are not the only one who feels this way.
Where is José Figueres Ave going? Is it going to Alum Rock Ave or McKee Rd because there is no bike lane there?	The City wants to connect José Figueres Ave to Scharff Ave, but we have not figured that out yet.
At King Rd and Alum Rock Ave, VTA wants to take the only parking space for a business for a bus loading area on the northeast corner. Have sent email to VTA Outreach.	[VTA] To clarify, this is a local bus stop on King Rd, just north of Alum Rock Ave, not the BRT stop at Alum Rock and King. Asked CWG member to resend email to community.outreach@vta.org , as VTA has experienced email difficulties over the past few weeks.
Phase II Update	
Is VTA keeping lines of communications open with construction projects, such as Our Lady of La Vang on 8 th Street & East Santa Clara Street which will be breaking ground December 2021?	Yes, VTA’s BART Silicon Valley (BSV) team is aware that the Our Lady of La Vang Church will be constructed between 7th and 9th Street, on the north side of Santa Clara Street. Due to the project's proximity to the station, the BSV team is reviewing their development application, with a focus on areas for construction coordination. We are working closely with VTA’s Land Use and Transportation Integration (LUTI) Team to provide comments to the developer through the City.
Phase II Funding	
No comments or questions.	
Phase II DBE/SBE Opportunities	
Are veteran-owned businesses included in DBE qualifications?	Yes, VTA has three groups included in its Office of Business Diversity program: veteran-owned, LGBT, and minority-owned businesses. Need to let the office know if you are a veteran.
Need to do a lot of outreach to get minority business involved. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is invisible here.	VTA is working with the Minority Business Consortium. VTA has hired them to do outreach.

Talking only to the Chamber is not enough.	
Very pleased VTA is taking over the owner-controlled insurance. Insurance is a major issue for small businesses.	Opinion noted.
Does Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP) include Workers Compensation?	Yes, OCIP covers General Liability and Workers Compensation.
Real Estate & Transit-Oriented Development	
Please consider the hundreds of high schoolers that will be right across the street from the 28 th Street/Little Portugal Station and the many, many more students a few blocks west. They all get out of school around the same time and want a place to hang out. Want to make sure the students are considered in the site plan design conversations. Perhaps a student CWG?	<p>Great idea about engaging the students. VTA has an existing partnership with Cristo Rey and are looking for ways to engage their students.</p> <p>As for access, the Stations Team has spent a lot of time thinking about how to make circulation work and is guiding the station's design.</p> <p>VTA's Real Estate and Transit-Oriented Development team will work with the City on creating a safe streetscape for future development around this station as a separate effort outside of the Phase II Project.</p>
Support SOMOS Mayfair's comment. Also want to encourage VTA to consider open spaces for student gathering opportunities. New development is taking the area's open spaces, so it is important to set aside space for grass, greenery and additional trees.	Comment noted.
Is there an update on the William to Witton portion of Five Wounds Trail?	VTA is still working with the City, Open Space Authority, and County to see how the transaction of land property can be done at 'no cost' basis. Working to schedule meeting with all four agencies in the next couple weeks. The meeting will 1) identify when agencies are ready to go to VTA Board (Board needs to approve no-cost sale), and 2) start discussion about design consideration for how Five Wounds Trail would go through the 28 th Street/Little Portugal BART Station.

Shocked that VTA reduced the number of parking spaces at this station. The fight for parking at that area is going to be tooth-and-nail and people will be running red lights to get parking.	VTA is not reducing the amount of parking at this station. What we are changing is where the parking will be located. Eight hundred spaces will be in a parking structure, and 400 will eventually be incorporated with future development.
Friendly means crossing guards at each intersection with traffic signals so students can cross safely.	Comment noted.
What does public and private mean? It doesn't work – look at California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). Want to protect public dollars.	If VTA wants to build TOD and make site improvements that are not part of Phase II Project, that's going to require private capital. VTA's Real Estate & TOD team is working with the community, City, and other stakeholders to determine what we want to create, drafting development agreements and then reaching out to developers. There are risks and challenges, but VTA is committed to doing this properly and effectively.
CHSRA said the same thing. They ultimately changed everything around to save a buck, and sorry to say, but that's what we're seeing here.	We look forward to your participation when the Design Development Framework effort starts here, so we can get to the desired community outcome.
The development of the BART station on 28th Street will intensify traffic flow. Enhancements to public/pedestrian safety will need to be considered carefully and be a high priority.	Comment noted. Pedestrian safety is a big part of VTA's planning. Will make a follow-up item for the next meeting.
Community Engagement	
Please elaborate on who is on the small business task force. Have not been receiving emails.	Alum Rock Santa Clara Business Association, Alum Rock Business Network, East Santa Clara Business Association, San José Downtown Association, The Alameda Business Association, Silicon Valley Central Chamber, etc. wanted to make sure all minority business consortium is on the Task Force. Intention is for group to live through entirety of construction process. Will reach out and make sure we have the right email for you.
When is the next small business task force Meeting?	Looking at June. Want to bring JC Lacey into this effort.

CWG Member Report Back	
Please make sure that anything that is printed does not call the Little Portugal Station “East Side”. That is disrespectful to the efforts of the community.	Comment Noted.
Economic Recovery Task Force has been meeting once a month since the start of the pandemic. At the beginning, many were not aware of this project. Have been sharing project updates with the group. Lost six businesses along East Santa Clara St. Continuing to fight for business support from the City. Did a press event with Council Member Peralez a couple weeks ago to ask the Mayor for financial support for small businesses.	Comment Noted.
<p>Am able to share information using social media platforms for Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association and East Santa Clara Street Business Association. Can also share info with the District 3 Community Leader Council Facebook Page.</p> <p>The Roosevelt Park and Olinder neighborhoods will be hosting a Dumpster Day event on Saturday, May 15th on N. 28th Street in front of the future BART station. VTA and other community members are invited to come by and see how we operate using the existing neighborhood space for our clean up event.</p>	Comment noted.
<p>Alum Rock Business Network has been involved with the CommUniverCity Graduate Urban Planning class at SJSU. They prepared a comprehensive report of the corridor and business needs. This report will be presented on May 19th and is intended to be a resource guide. Will share with the group when it comes out.</p> <p>Have been working and promoting programs to support businesses with sanitizer, vaccines, etc. Also working as a</p>	Comment noted.

small business advisory and helping businesses in corridor with rent relief program, PPP loans, etc.	
Plata Arroyo took three years to get property at 1936 Alum Rock cured of the polluting vehicles that were there.	Comment noted.
The Alum Rock Santa Clara Business Association is working with Prosperity Lab to prepare resiliency training and assistance for businesses that have survived and need to rebuild. Doing an inventory of businesses that are still around. Building a network of cameras in business district to apprehend and deter increase in crime. Hoping construction impact will be minimal but interested in working with VTA on mitigation.	Comment noted.
SOMOS Mayfair has increased engagement with Google-Diridon related work and Berryessa Flea Market over the last 4-6 months. Interested in seeing what community engagement around the 28 th Street/Little Portugal Station can be hosted. Ideally bilingual and less technical (more community friendly). Happy to connect with VTA and provide feedback on what might be most appropriate.	Comment noted.
ARUVA is meeting with affordable housing developers to provide input on housing development along Alum Rock Ave corridor. Developed Equitable Development Plan to score projects on equitability. Trying to keep up with City policy changes.	Comment noted.

Next CWG Meeting: September 22, 2021, 4:00 PM, Zoom

Prepared by: Kate Christopherson (VTA)
Concurred by: Joseph Clayton (VTA)
Distribution: CWG Members
Project Team
City & Public Agency Staff
Distribution List