



Willow Glen Neighborhood Association

POSITION PAPER **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018**

City of San José Planning Division

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The Willow Glen Neighborhood Association (WGNA) would like to offer our support and endorsement for the Google Village project in the Diridon Station area in San Jose. As you may know, WGNA – the oldest neighborhood association in San Jose celebrated 45th anniversary in 2018 -- was established for the sole purpose of creating a stronger and more tightly-knit neighborhood. Our Board of Directors is comprised of established professionals with expertise in various fields, including, but not limited to, public safety, education, land development, small business and many more, with the ultimate goal to keep residents informed on a range of topics pertinent to the life in Willow Glen and to act as an agent of positive change by getting involved in advocacy activities on behalf of our members.

Ms. Kim Walesh, as well as several representatives from Google, attended our September 13 Board meeting where they gave a detailed presentation on the potential Google development, the City's community engagement process, and proposed buildout timeline for the project. During the extensive Q&A session after the presentation, our members and guests had the opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns to the City's OEM and Google's development team representatives. We believe that we have information now to be to express our support of the project in the public realm.

For this reason, WGNA's Board of Directors supports the potential Google Campus development because of its catalytic potential to boost the commercial revitalization of the Diridon station area by adding high-quality jobs located within walking distance to the major intermodal transit hub, and because of promoting high-quality urban environments by making a significant private investment in publicly accessible amenities such as outdoor plazas and paseos, retail opportunities, and linear park along the Los Gatos Creek.

Google's plan to bring 20,000 jobs to San Jose will advance the City's goal to reduce the job-housing imbalance by creating employment opportunities for the residents of San Jose who currently leave San Jose every morning to commute to their workplaces in other Bay Area cities. This will also result in a significant sales tax revenue because Google employees are likely to shop and dine locally.

As a transit-oriented development, this mixed-use proposal for the Diridon Station area will help take off cars off the road by allowing residents to live near jobs and get to work without automobile use, especially

after the arrival of BART, High Speed Rail, and CalTrain's electrified service to Diridon. Bicycle and pedestrian trails and connections identified in the conceptual proposal, as well as a robust transportation demand management program developed by Google and approved by the City will reduce traffic congestion and will improve air quality.

High-density transit-oriented development (TOD) complements the transit hub by increasing the use of public transportation and decreasing costs of infrastructure and public services (Police, Fire, Utilities) compared to suburban development, and decreasing the environmental impacts of suburban sprawl.

The world-class design with landscaping, plazas, paseos, and retail shops will add to the attractiveness of the Diridon Station Plan area that currently presents a mix of incompatible uses (e.g. industrial facilities and retail uses) with insufficient bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to nearby business, commercial, and residential districts.

WGNA strongly encourages the City of San Jose and Google to continue moving this project forward. Google Campus at Diridon is perhaps the most important project for our entire region. We trust that the City of San Jose understands the value of providing expedited review for the development and urge you to take all necessary action to move this project forward as fast as possible.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Estensen
Board President, WGNA

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1st Vice President, WGNA