

AASCA Community Meeting

March 4, 2021

6 - 7:30 pm

Hosted by: African American Community Service Agency, with City support

Public Attendance: 25

Objectives:

- Continue to increase awareness among the general public and target audiences about the Diridon projects (decision-making and engagement processes, key milestones, relationship between projects, opportunities to get involved, etc.) – through presenting and answering questions
- Tee up release of the Downtown West Development Agreement – through reinforcing key messages
- Hear from new voices
- Build connections with community members and CBO partners

Overview: The African American Community Service Agency (AACSA) held a virtual discussion on the plans for the Diridon Station Area, including Google's proposed Downtown West project. The event included a short informational presentation by City staff, followed by Q&A with staff and Google's representatives, and a feedback session to hear from community members.

In addition to a general overview of the planning process, topics included affordable housing/anti-displacement, jobs/education, transportation, parks/public space, and upcoming community engagement opportunities.

Link to Video: <https://youtu.be/ZP2w5h4SOK0>

Presenters:

Lori Severino, City of San Jose, Diridon Program Manager

Key Themes:

- **Focus on resolving inequities** and specifically describe the steps Google and the planned projects will take to mitigate the financial, racial, and social inequities that already exist
- **Integrate cultural acknowledgement** and build off the history of San Jose
- **Partner with SJSU** to provide resources and opportunities for faculty, staff, and students
- **Focus on inclusionary practices** and creating a welcoming environment both in planning and implementation and of the planned projects.

Q&A Notes from Main Meeting:

Italics = city/presenter/host

**Q&A has been modified for clarity and omits personal identifiers*

- How are the various levels of affordability defined by dollar amounts? What do all the different tiers of affordability represent?
 - *Answer: 4 diff income targets from extremely low at 30k for 1 person, and then up from there. Range = 1bd as low as \$424/mo - \$2,400/mo (17K.yr - 99k/yr for one person) (Jessica)*
- Is there evidence that job training works well? I'd love to learn more on that front because I haven't studied it much. Community Land Trusts sound rad!
 - *Answer: the programs that we are looking at, measuring success and outcomes is a big part. Job training programs are included. (Lori)*
- After the Pandemic will Google need the currently planned office spaces? Will more people continue working from home?
 - *Answer: Committed to creating spaces for people to connect, opportunities to come to work. (Jessica)*
- What would be successful is being honest and quit using euphemistic language to describe What Google is doing. Gentrification. Generational Trauma has been experienced by Chicanos. Somos with Grants good to know
- How has Google been working with SJ State? Would like AS to be part of the conversation
 - *Answer: Working with a Business school cohort to provide input to plan, presentation end of Sept. Open to ideas to work with other members of the community (Jessica)*
- Impact Study done on the impact of the campus?
- Internship opportunities for SJSU students
 - *Answer: Workforce training programs in the works, and training and working with SJSU (Jessica)*
- Great job City bringing in grassroots orgs representing community
- What is the value of Community Benefits? How will other organizations be able to get involved in the decision making process?
 - *Answer: Will be part of DE. And there will be other opportunities including online forms to provide input. Open to talk to other community groups and to talk to everyone(lori)*
- What is the situation with building height questions around Airport and how has commission weighed in? Reduce building heights.
 - *Answer: Plans have been taken to counties and commissions for input and will be brought to CC. Override process is available to adopt heights consiste with FAA rules. (tim)*
- Opp for real estate community and minority brokers? Preference for local?
 - *Answer: We will look into and get back to you. On aff housing most will be focused on rental dev, city has real estate team internally. Rely on non-profits to do that work*
- How many new jobs will be generated and how can apply
 - *Answer: 5,700 const jobs, and with office 25k will work within the buildings. Job will be posted to forums to competitively bid (Ricardo)*
- Racial and ethnic equity in rental units being developed?

- *Answer: Creating opps for residents to stay in the area, and ads and accept tenants in fair housing req'ts and reach out to the community (Jackie)*
- Any research done on impacts of Google type developments in densely populated areas and long term impacts?
 - *Answer: Can't speak to any long term analyses done (Ricardo) We have researched drivers of displacement and the transit opps can help offset and movement of other development, and spurs redevelopment, if not Google something else would want to com into area because of rich transit areas (Jackie)*
- Right that there is a huge opportunity, but long term effects, impacts can be good and bad, need to do it right, need to impact all the businesses and people will be impacted and Google is thinking of the impacts to mitigate and be a great neighbor. This is the time we determine what kind of project this will be.
- Redlining articulated the impacts, on land that Google is planning and still hasn't been rectified. Chicano's need to be included and given the right to be a part of this process. SOMOS does not speak for the Chicano family. City part of the problem not part of the solution. Need Chicano voice at the table.
 - *Answer: We did offer an opportunity for partnership and hope to continue to increase voices into the process. (Lori)*
- Good outreach with public comment, large outreach campaign and ad in area by Google, with door to door with leave behinds to make folks aware how to comment, child care centers for low income families to help attend and get to a job and higher ed, job opps for low income people with high school diploma or not or assist to get GED.

Answer: Echo Jessica's comments, and would love to connect to get ideas to expand engagement, want to be part of this community for the long haul and be fellow citizen. Child care center is planned to allow all to participate. Employment opps is reflected in the Community Benefits. (Ricardo)

Breakout Room Notes:

Room 1

- Any remaining questions?
 - Rev Fannie Dais - shared her info for Google to connect
 - Associated Gov of SJSU - Kadence@ also wants to be notified by Google
 - Consider how addressing diff parts of the community have a cultural approach not just class or income issue,, to offset some of the resistance. Integrate that as part of the outreach
 - Bilingual teachers that are included
 - Committee of Associated Students need a seat at the table and Student Homeless is a big one and consider how it will address
- Concerns about the planned project?
 - Equality and addressing inequalities
 - How will Google work with SJSU and administration

- What in addition to Google coming closer to downtown and adding econ impact, what will the community impact be and how will people working in area connect with people in this new community, with events and other means to network? There could be tension. How do you maintain the piece?
- Project is unique, CEQA looks at impact but doesn't look at intersectionality impacts, but hear interest in that to bring to team to look at impacts at a more granular level. Looking at displacement but not looking at intersectionality of new and old. (Lori)
- Big part of work has been community engagement around the public realm to make space equitable and accessible and welcoming to all. Primary goal of the design at the space (Bethany Windle, google)
- Google should do public forum with SJSU students to discuss impact on campus Get students involved as they are the future that will be living in these environments.
- Google working with students and open to new ways to engage (Bethany)
- Chat Discussion
 - Is there a plan to engage young people through internships and job placement?
 - Gentrification is a real concern and the community would like to know how they can be included and benefit from this project.
 - *No plan specifically at this point, but that is on the list as a potential program type to invest in moving forward*
 - Ok

Room 2

- Does Google need as much office space for their project if community members will not be commuting as much?
- Need space that belongs to community in collaboration
- Cultural relevance
 - The “horseshoe” is my neighborhood and my ashes will be spread on the Guadalupe. What does Google have planned for the historical facts and how do they plan to acknowledge this fact with building on the land?
- Invest in families and children underserved and Chicano community
 - What are you planning to do in terms of gentrification? SoMos can't answer for all Latinos etc.
- Mixed opinion on excitement of the project and what comes out of it. Google employees can identify with Chincano experience

Room 3

- Traffic and construction impact
- What does section 8 housing look like and availability in SJ, and fiscal implications for those populations. Support for fed level
- Impact on SJSU
 - Wants Google to reach out to Associated Students of SJSU
 - Student homeless population at SJSU is large. How will that be affected?

- What are the steps that Google will take to work with SJSU and students as a whole?
- Need for an intersectional approach with both class and culture
 - Helps offset/ address issues of different identities including Chicano historical impact in SJ and Black/African descent community
 - Target inequalities and inequities
 - Connecting with community to find different intersectionalities
- What are impacts of the project in the community?
 - Will there be any effect on the local churches?
 - What Programs and events
 - What will happen to the low income families
- Is there a plan to engage young people through internship opportunities and job placement

Chat Notes:

Italics = city/presenter/host

**Chat has been modified for clarity and omits personal identifiers.*

- Dear community of Santa Clara Co, and VTA, As I am currently understanding things, the CHSR line, can possibly be completed, by the end of this decade - along the Highway 99 corridor, from LA to Bakersfield, to Merced, to Stockton, to Sacramento. An ACE Express rail line, can be developed, from Stockton to San Jose. And work as, a CHSR commuter/connector line, for the CHSR, into the SF Bay Area, from the 2030s, into the 2040s. For at this point, it may not be, until the 2040s, that the CHSR, can formally be built, into San Jose or Alameda Co. If nothing else, I hope this can help make clear, your own, simple planning ideas, at this time. Please note, how CHSR planning, can change, fairly quickly. There may be, an overall leadership position, Santa Clara county has, for the CHSR, at this time. It may be speed & convenience, to connect, the SF Bay Area, to Merced, and the central valley, that will determine, how the CHSR, will arrive, in either Alameda county or Santa Clara county, in the future. Ask for patience, with a several year process, of ebb & flow, going back and forth, between Santa Clara Co. & Alameda Co. A reminder, that with upcoming, Bay Area natural disaster preparedness worries, of the next 5-10 years, Bay Area communities & their local govts, need the efforts, of cooperation and understanding - not competition - from all people, throughout the state, at this time. The MTC, can help assist, in needed good communication, between all SF Bay Area counties, at this time. To also note, the staff & people of BART, may have, a library of knowledge, and decades of good precedence & advice, that can help make things, more clear when needed. The Capital Corridor Joint Powers Board, the VTA, is a part of, can also make for, interesting rail connections, with people from Alameda county, all the way, to Sacramento county. To conclude, it is the open sharing, of ideas, information, & knowledge - and not the hiding of it - that is how, we can all learn and grow, a more safe, inclusive, open, democratic purpose, and sustainable, positive community future. Sincerely, Blair Beekman
- where is The voice for Chicanos and descendants of Campesinos who were Redlined Out of this very Area???
- That's cool

- I have copies of DEEDS of homes in that Area that were Restrictive Covenants. This is Most Redlined Area of This City. Somos Does Not speak for Chicano Community
- a question - where does current building height issues stand, in the airport runway corridor area ? Are airport commission ideas, being respected ?
- I am a Descendant of Chicanos who suffered the Historical injustices that created that area. We Los Chicanos Hijos de Campesinos must always remember while we were being poisoned in the fields of Sal Si Puedes WE were being Killed in the fields of Vietnam.WE were good enough to go fight for Democracy in Vietnam yet were denied Democracy here in San Jose yet it was Our body and our Childrens body that produced the wealth.It is Time that this city reckon with its brutal treatment of Chicanos in this City.As a SON OF SAN JO myself it is my duty responsibility privilege to fight for what my Ancestors were systematically deprived of Due process and Equal Protection under the law. My name is Paul Soto and I am a 52 year old son of San Jose and a proud son of campesinos of Sal Si Puedes. Planes from this airport were taking off and landing on a regular basis, not only filled with leaded fuel, but with pesticides like DHT, spewing its poison over heavily populated areas like Sal Si Puedes, no more than a half mile away. Thousands of children as young as 8 were then ordered to go work in these pesticide infested fields resulting in countless deaths and birth defects, which are still visible in generations since. While Mexicans fought and died for democracy in World War 2 and toiled in the fields to feed the country via the Bracero Program, we were denied democracy and our humanity which can be found brutally and accurately documented by John Steinbeck in his essay "Starvation Under the Orange Tree" written as he lived among campesinos from Gilroy to Sal Si Puedes in 1938. Reid Hillview Airport is complicit in these crimes against humanity as it facilitated the economic viability using its
- What are the opportunities for the Real estate community in our neighborhood? Are you using outside brokers?
- Care to articulate some of it detailing how that History is Universally related to as affirming ..Just..Having Integrity Honor Nobility inspiring both Pride and Humility???Remember San Jose as we know it started of with Thomas Fallon planting U.S.Flag on behalf of President James PolkWho installed Peter Burnett as First Governor Of California.His First Edict was to Declare that "Native Populations"needed to be Exterminated that they inhibit the institution of "Manifest Destiny"a white supremacist philosophy that provided the rationale decimating native populations because according to that philosophy we were not only Inherently inferior to Whites..But that God himself endowed whites with the intellect and ingenuity to rule the land its resources as well as the people on it.This is what lead to western expansion.Both Burnett and Leland Stanford co- Authored one of the most Racist unjust undemocratic documents ever sanctioned." The Chinese Exclusionary Act of 1888" This act ensured Stanford an e
- to offer ideas, around Paul Soto ideas, eastside issues. is it time to more discuss, here east side issues ?

- *Going back a couple questions, we worked with the SJSU Urban Planning program to analyze and make recommendations related to the Diridon area in the 2018-19 school year. The Diridon to Downtown project won an award!*
- You can read my question
- These Histories must be Reckoned with for these meetings to have legitimacy. The Generational Trauma that flows from the Racist Discriminatory practices must be acknowledged. These are Hundreds of Thousands of Descendant who are still suffering from these Redlining Policies
- Thank you Lori I will look into that
- Where is The Chicano Voice???
- *@Linda can you reissue your question*
- Will a published process be developed to address racial ethnic equity in the rental units being developed.
- *@Paul is your question for the panel today? or a general question for those in the chat*
- I Have Photographs and Paperwork that lends complete legitimization of every one of my Contentions. I am Making human beings Aware
- muchas gracias, paul.
- That was my question. Thank you :)
- WHAT ABOUT CHICANOS
- We need to be at the Table. especially in housing
- Paul is reminding, most all of this dialogue, should concern eastside issues, and how to involve groups, of lesser privilege.
- we are not low income people. we are human beings. the labor of my Ancestors built this City
- My apologies Mr. Soto I did not mean to offend you I will be more selective with my wording in the future
- child labor was exploited while pesticides were sprayed upon them. then Mexicans were humiliated in the Schools, beaten for speaking spanish.
- thanks for the clarification Paul. low income people are being ignored, however.
- the eastside leadership, that should head this Google project, is both excitement and a possible curse.
- Something that is done to acknowledge the history of the land San Jose and by extension Google will be on is providing a land acknowledgement statement before a meeting and gatherings ect
- *oladotun.hospidales@sjaacsa.org*
- thanks for tonight's session!
- No problem Mr. Soto! Glad you came on tonight to represent.
- building an inclusive future of google vs future national security worries.
- *Thank you everyone for your participation!*
- *Thanks for having us, AACSA!*
- *oladotun.hospidales@sjaacsa.org*

- Thank you Long live fred hampton
- Thank you for a rich conversation
- Will there be grant money for adjacent communities for property upgrades considering this will be a new area?