



September 22, 2008

To: Envision San José 2040 Task Force

From: League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara

Subject: Guidelines for LandUse/Transportation Scenarios

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara has reviewed the latest version of the proposed guidelines from two perspectives: We scanned the relevant LWV positions for items that should be added to the guidelines, and we reviewed the language of the proposed guidelines for conformance to LWV positions. The following recommendations are the result of that review.

Introductory Statement:

LWV recognizes that the guidelines relate to what San Jose should be in 2040 and not how we get there. However, the “how” will have great impact on whether we do achieve the city we seek.. For that reason, we wish to emphasize the importance of benchmarks for phasing and assessment, of indicators that can be measured.

The guidelines are interdependent, constituting a vision for the city, not an opportunity to pick and choose among expendable elements. In execution they will pose contradictions, but we should not lose sight of their intrinsic collective value.

There are tensions and potential conflicts between various guidelines that make this a complex document, and will make implementing a plan that reflects them difficult. The city must identify a means of considering the consequences of changes and deviations over time and how they impact the overall plan for 2040 and the city’s ability to reach the vision and achieve the 2040 goals.

The Scenario Guidelines:

We recommend moving the issue of fiscal sustainability to the top of the list in a new **Section A**. Achieving compliance with all the other guidelines will depend in large part on the city’s success in improving our fiscal balance. We recommend that this new section include the current items 9 (quantities and types of land) and 27 (adequate land for revenue generating uses).

A. Interconnected City

We recommend the following revision of item 7: *Ensure preservation and restoration of riparian corridors.... Delete the word Reinforce at the beginning of the sentence.*

C Environmental Leadership

Add two new guidelines:

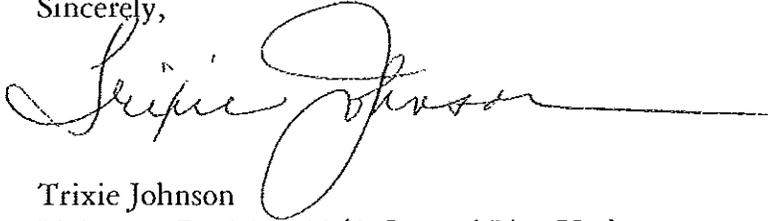
1. Encourage all new and renovation construction to qualify as green buildings.
2. Encourage all San Jose businesses and industries to adhere to Santa Clara County Green Business standards.

D. Healthy Neighborhoods

Revise item 22 by adding "trails" to the list of items requiring access: "... facilitates access to parks, recreation opportunities, and trails, and..."

The League of Women Voters appreciates the opportunity to comment on the guidelines. We hope that the Task Force will use our suggestions to strengthen the document, even though the short list above is tacit acknowledgment that the draft was already very close to one we could support. We understand that, even at this point, the guidelines remain interim and subject to further revision. We will continue to observe your process and perhaps may have additional recommendations in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Trixie Johnson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Trixie Johnson
Liaison to Envision 2040 General Plan Update
League of Women Voter of San Jose/Santa Clara