

Department of Transportation

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Responses Roll in Following Request for Innovative Transit Solutions

SAN JOSE, Calif. (December 17, 2019) – Twenty-three responses, from firms large and small, were submitted to the City of San José Department of Transportation following a Request for Information (RFI) issued in July. The RFI asked construction firms, transit consultants, engineers, and innovators to share their ideas for innovative transit solutions that could bypass traffic, be cost-efficient in construction and operations, and feature a sustainable business model while connecting travelers from Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) to Diridon Station, and down the San Carlos/Stevens Creek corridor to west valley cities and major employers.

The responses are indicative of the widespread innovation occurring across the transit and mobility landscape, including personal rapid transit, mixed-flow autonomous vehicles, Hyperloop, monorails, and maglevs. The respondents range from well-known firms such as the Boring Company, Bombardier, Virgin Hyperloop, and BYD, to student-led groups from San José State and Southern Illinois University. The diversity of proposals will help the City and its partners assess what type, if any, of new transit technology will meet the region's growing transportation needs.

“In the heart of Silicon Valley, we’re looking for transit solutions that break the mold,” said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. “We’re seeking innovative approaches to build fast, convenient mass transit on a timeframe that keeps up with our booming city.”

The RFI, a collaboration by San José's Department of Transportation and SJC, the cities of Cupertino and Santa Clara, and the Valley Transportation Authority, asked for innovative, cost-efficient ideas to address two segments:

1. A connection from SJC to Diridon Station that would “[i]ntegrate Diridon Station and SJC as a single facility from the passenger’s perspective” by providing quick and reliable trips across the roughly three miles that separate the two facilities
2. A Stevens Creek Connector that would bypass today’s worsening vehicle traffic, taking passengers to a trio of “urban villages” in west San José, the Stevens Creek Boulevard Focus Area in Santa Clara, Main Street Cupertino, the currently-under-development Vallco site, Apple headquarters and several other corporate campuses, and De Anza College.

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“With flourishing development happening along the Stevens Creek/San Carlos Corridor, it is imperative we are as innovative as the region we represent,” said Vice Mayor Chappie Jones. “We must implement a world-class transit solution that is cost-effective, efficient, fast, and integrative for all of our communities.”

“The City of Cupertino remains committed to addressing the traffic issues that face our region,” said Cupertino Vice Mayor Darcy Paul. “Forward-looking mass transit that is clean, efficient, and effective is precisely the kind of infrastructure that we need to implement in order to prepare ourselves for our future success and sustainability.”

“The Stevens Creek corridor is one of the principal backbones of Santa Clara County, with ever-increasing volumes of businesses, retail, restaurants, regional attractions, and residences,” said VTA Board of Directors Chair Teresa O’Neill. “In order to ensure the future vitality of this corridor, the City of Santa Clara, along with our partners in San José and Cupertino, understand that we must find new, faster, and efficient means to move high volumes of people to their destinations along Stevens Creek. If we fail to bring our innovative soul to solving this challenge, we risk missing the opportunity that Stevens Creek represents to our communities”

The nearly two-dozen responses will be analyzed by an interdisciplinary panel representing all of the involved agencies, with assistance from technical experts. The group will use the information gleaned from the submissions to develop a funding strategy and potentially issue a future request for proposals. The submissions are available at <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/transportation/transit/airport-diridon-stevens-creek-connector>.

About the City of San José

With more than one million residents, San José is one of the most diverse large cities in the United States and is Northern California’s largest city and the 10th largest city in the nation. San José’s transformation into a global innovation center has resulted in one of the largest concentrations of technology companies and expertise in the world. In 2011, the City adopted Envision San José 2040, a long-term growth plan that sets forth a vision and a comprehensive road map to guide the City’s anticipated growth through the year 2040.

About the Department of Transportation

The San José Department of Transportation (DOT) plans, develops, operates, and maintains transportation facilities, services, and related systems that contribute to the livability and economic health of the city. Our goal is to provide a transportation system that is safe, efficient, and convenient for all modes of transportation, and which supports San José’s livability and economic vitality.

SJC: Transforming How Silicon Valley Travels

Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC) is Silicon Valley’s airport, a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San Jose. The airport, now in its 70th year, serves more than 15 million passengers annually, with 450 peak daily departures and arrivals on 14 international and domestic carriers to 50+ nonstop destinations. SJC was America’s fastest-growing major airport in 2018, based on percentage increase in passengers served. For more airport information, visit FlySJC.com.

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