

Five Wounds/ Brookwood Terrace Rail-to-Trail Task Force

November 20, 2010

San Jose Envision 2040 Task Force
Planning Department
200 East Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: (1) Land Use Designation for the abandoned ROW from East William Street north to Highway 101
(2) Request for housing to face the trail whenever possible

The Rail-to-Trail Task Force would like to submit that the Public Park and Open Space Land Use Designation be applied to the abandoned ROW from East William Street instead of the Floating Park Overlay. We would also like to request that any future housing development be designed to face the trail wherever possible to provide “eyes on the trail” for both safety and aesthetic reasons.

We have been apprised that the Draft Envision 2040 General Plan may be applying the Floating Park Overlay to the abandoned ROW. We believe that the motivation for the use of the Floating Park Overlay is an intention to provide some sort of park-like area in the future, without specifics as to the exact location.

We feel that this situation threatens the continuity of the future Rail-to-Trail Project since the Floating Park Overlay does not protect the ROW from development (i.e., there are still underlying land uses that range from housing to industrial designations). At any time, VTA could sell off a portion of the corridor to a developer for development, to the detriment of our project plans.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Rocketship charter school is likely to necessitate a change in the trail’s alignment from the one envisioned in our concept plan (i.e., to go along the east side of Wooster). We believe it is now necessary to plan for a trail along the railroad ROW instead of Wooster.

I can be reached at (408) 792-4114 or jcosby@sanjose.org in the event you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Joan Rivas-Cosby
Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace Rail-to-Trail Task Force

cc: Mr. Andrew Crabtree, Principal Planner