

March 2, 2018

Rosalynn Hughey  
San Jose Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: MTC PDA Planning Grant Program Application  
Southwest Expressway & Race Street Light Rail Urban Village


Dear Ms. Hughey,

On behalf of SPUR, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for San Jose's application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's PDA Technical Assistance program. Funding the planning process for the Southwest Expressway and Race Street Light Rail Urban Village is an investment in San Jose's infill growth strategy at designated "urban villages" at key commercial corridors and major intersections throughout San Jose.

As you know, SPUR is a strong supporter of this focus on accommodating growth in transit-oriented and already built-out locations within the city borders rather than sprawling outward. SPUR also has called for a focus on "Central San Jose" or areas within a 30-minute transit trip from downtown San Jose. In SPUR's 2014 report, *The Future of Downtown San Jose*, the Southwest Expressway and Race Street urban villages were called out as not yet slated for near term planning but a potential focus for future coordinated urban village planning. We are pleased to see that the combined Southwest Expressway and Race Street Urban Village has moved up in the pipeline. This urban village lies within Central San Jose, has direct access to light rail, includes viable development sites, and has strong potential to attract market interest.

SPUR supports this effort to initiate the planning process for the Southwest Expressway and Race Street Urban Village. It is an important step forward toward allowing much-needed transit-oriented housing to move forward as well as shaping the design and form of commercial and mixed-use development to support the city's transportation and environmental goals. We look forward to continuing to work with San Jose to bring its urban village strategy to fruition.

Sincerely,

  
Kristy Wang  
Community Planning Policy Director