

Department of Transportation

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### South Bay Agencies Ask for Cutting-Edge Transit Solutions

SAN JOSE, Calif. (July 1, 2019) – Can a new transit connection between Mineta San José International Airport (SJC), Diridon Station, and west Santa Clara Valley cities come to life faster and cheaper than conventional approaches? That’s the question several South Bay transportation agencies are posing to tech, construction, and transit companies through a request for information (RFI) published today.

The RFI, a collaboration by San José’s department of transportation and airport, the cities of Cupertino and Santa Clara, and the Valley Transportation Authority, asks firms to discuss potential solutions that could provide “grade-separated mass transit infrastructure and operations at significantly lower cost than traditional transit projects.”

“Amid unprecedented growth at San Jose International Airport, and the development of a new vision for Diridon Station—set to become the largest multi-modal transit hub west of the Mississippi – San José sits on the brink of a new age of public transit, with a unique opportunity to explore innovative transit connections to our city’s core,” said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. “By linking the airport to the station and beyond, visitors from across the globe will be able to explore Silicon Valley’s capital without entering a car.”

Firms are being asked to talk about 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.

“San José, Santa Clara, Cupertino, and VTA have come together in the spirit of regional collaboration to look at bold, cutting-edge transit solutions along the Stevens Creek corridor,” San José Vice Mayor Chappie Jones said. “It is imperative that we implement solutions that will integrate existing and future development along that corridor with fast, efficient, and cost-effective

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solutions. The same way of thinking, or status quo, cannot continue. We must be as innovative as the region that we represent.”

“The City of Cupertino is dedicated to finding a solution to the traffic issues that plague our region,” Cupertino Councilmember Darcy Paul said. “A high-capacity, high-speed, grade-separated transit system along the Stevens Creek Boulevard corridor would go a long way toward creating quicker travel times while building stronger connections throughout the valley. Significantly faster transit is also a key factor, if not the most important factor, for a real and lasting fix to our housing crisis.”

This isn’t the first time a quick connection from SJC to transit has been discussed. In 2000, voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax aimed at public transit capital improvement projects and operations. Included in that measure was an airport people mover that would connect airport passengers to Caltrain and VTA light rail. More recently, the concept for the SJC-Diridon connector was submitted by the City of San José, and a vision for grade-separated transit down the Stevens Creek corridor was jointly submitted by San José, Santa Clara, Cupertino, and VTA, to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Horizon initiative. That effort seeks to align investment in transportation, housing, economic development, resilience and the effects of emerging technologies at a regional level.

The partner agencies are promoting the RFI broadly, hoping to garner responses from national and international firms. Responses are due by September 30. Interested firms can find the RFI at <http://bit.ly/sjc-diridon-stevens>.

### **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.*

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