The Stations are the City

Leveraging BART and High-Speed Rail to generate San José’s Next Great Places

The 54th International Making Cities Livable Conference
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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Intentions . . .

• San José’s Diridon Station is Northern California’s premier rail transportation hub.

• Two transformative rail modes, BART and High Speed Rail, are coming to San José.

• Diridon is poised to anchor the Bay Area’s preeminent opportunity for transit-oriented development, a new 21st Century downtown district and San José’s next Great Place.

• How will this iconic vision of Diridon and Downtown be delivered?

• The answer lies in Urban Design: Diridon as station and Diridon as place.
The Valley of Heart’s Delight ...
The “Capital of Silicon Valley” . . .

- With over 1 million residents, San José is Northern California’s most populous city.
- San José is Northern California’s largest city geographically, at over 180 square miles.
- San José’s climate is “Mediterranean”, with warm summers and mild winters.
- Downtown is the hub of an extensive Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, operated by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA).
- Downtown is undergoing a rapid housing boom, anticipating the transformative arrival of BART and High Speed Rail.
The “Capital of Silicon Valley”...
Grand Central Station of the West . . .
The Railway Nexus . . .
The Railway Nexus ...
The Railway Nexus . . .

- Amtrak *Coast Starlight* long-distance trains
- Amtrak *Capital Corridor* regional trains
- Amtrak *San Joaquin* regional trains
- *Altamont Corridor Express* commuter trains
- *Caltrain* commuter trains
- *BART* commuter trains
- *California High Speed Rail* express trains
- *San Jose Airport Connector* people mover

*San José is Northern California’s premier railway hub!* . . .
The possibility of Diridon Station . . .

• The Question:
  “What is the vision worthy of Northern California’s premier crossroads of public transportation and the central gateway to Northern California’s largest city?”

• The Opportunity:
  “We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to develop a transportation facility that is comparable to the best in the world.”

City officials have a name this vision: “The Grand Central Station of the West!”
The possibility of Diridon Station . . .
Diridon Station today . . .
Visions of California High Speed Rail . . .
The 2014 Diridon Station Area Plan . . .

(The ballpark is now gone!)
Putting the pieces together . . .
Putting the pieces together . . .
Diridon and Downtown . . .
Urban rooms and walls . . .
Transit-oriented development . . .
Crafting the connection . . .
Crafting the connection . . .
Transformation at the Center . . .
Downtown San José . . .
Transit and walkability . . .

- BART
- VTA RAPID BUS
- VTA LRT - CONVENTION CENTER
- VTA LRT - ST. JAMES
- VTA LRT - SANTA CLARA
- VTA LRT - PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO
- SANTA CLARA COMPLETE STREET
- BART STATION ENTRANCES

1/4 MILE RADIUS

0 1/4 1/2 MILE
Transit and walkability . . .
Portugal in San José . . .
A world apart...
A world apart . . .
Alum Rock BART station …

- Station is underground
- Transit village is new urban center of Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace neighborhood
- BART entrances in transit village plaza
- Neighborhood is multi-ethnic, working class
- Founded by Portuguese immigrants in early 20th Century
- Five Wounds Portuguese National Church is internationally-known landmark
- Intense community participation in planning of transit village
Inspired community-based planning . . .
Inspired community-based planning...
Reclaiming industrial land...
Creating a transit village . . .
Creating a transit village . . .
Creating a transit village . . .
Creating a transit village . . .
Making it Happen . . .
The challenge of governance …

• Achievement of the Diridon, Downtown, and Alum Rock visions requires the actions of myriads of public and private stakeholders.

• In the words of SPUR (San Francisco Planning and Urban Research), “each public agency has been working independently…, not according to a shared vision.”

• SPUR recommends: “… Diridon Station will not be successful without a consolidated public governance entity that can implement the vision over the long term.”

And so the adventure begins!
Every journey begins and ends on foot …