

Jon Maginot

From: Harry Guy
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:33 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Support for Agenda Item #8 re Advocacy for Envision Silicon Valley County Sales Tax Measure

While residents are never excited about the thought of paying a higher sales tax, and while I also have serious reservations about the VTA's ability to appropriately and effectively manage money and projects, I do think it is important for our city to support and be included as an advocate for Envision Silicon Valley, and a November 2016 sales tax measure. Thus, I would urge the City Council to follow the Staff recommendation in support of the measure.

The Staff and BPAC have identified a number of key Los Altos project needs that could compete for some of the funds, if the sales tax measure succeeds. Our city streets and county-controlled roads are in serious need for improvements right now, and the project costs and competition for available funds will only be more of a challenge in the future. If the measure passes, I understand that the majority of funds will likely go to BART and CalTrain improvements, and there will likely be a very high level of competition for a small amount of local funding, however, if we are not on record as an advocate, how could we expect to be a credible competitor for funds.

The proposed improvements to Foothill Expressway, between San Antonio and El Monte are extremely important to get completed as soon as possible. As the Council is well aware, the traffic backups on Foothill, El Monte and San Antonio Rd have a daily dramatic and negative impact on the previously calm neighborhoods surrounding this area. The excessive volume and speeds of cars now using these neighborhood streets in an effort to get around the bottle-necked main routes has created a significant increased hazard for children, our aging pedestrian population and bicyclists as they move about our neighborhoods.

Respectfully,
Harry Guy

Los Altos