

Council Members,

I plan to attend the Strategic Priorities meeting on January 14 and speak on behalf of significantly increasing our focus and funding on public safety, specifically Wildfire Prevention and Preparation. I expect the document I have attached will get into the Addendum to your regular packet since I am sending it to the Town Clerk today.

Let me preface this submission to you by stating that Public Safety needs to be elevated significantly in our community. The threat of wildfire is the biggest single safety concern. Our community is at high risk for wildfire and this risk needs to be mitigated by taking definitive actions with a HIGH degree of urgency. This risk was really brought home through a publication (updated July 2019), "Where will the West's next deadly wildfire strike? The risks are everywhere." In this study, Los Gatos was rated 4.06 on a scale of 1-5 (very low to very high). Paradise, California, prior to its devastating fire, was rated a lower risk than Los Gatos at 3.81. A wildfire with the same ferocity of Paradise would take out most of our hillside community in less than 60 minutes (fire traveling 100 yards/second).

Are we as prepared as we should be for wildfire? The answer is "no." There is much more we need to do to get our community "house" in order. Attached is a list of items/actions that need to be addressed with a great sense of urgency. Funds need to be allocated to address matters of public safety. Downtown parking, economic vitality and traffic are important issues but no one will die or be injured due to fewer parking spaces, less dollars spent on economic development or time spent in traffic. Let's get serious about an issue that could forever change the Town of Los Gatos, wildfire.

Rob Stump

ATTACHMENT 7

**Town of Los Gatos – Public Safety
Wildfire Preparation/Prevention
2020 Priorities**

1. Planning/Governance
 - a. Update the SCC Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Refer to Tables 9.1 thru 9.5 – last updated August 2016.
 - b. Establish a Town of Los Gatos/Community Wildfire Council. Provide direction to the Town Council.
2. Evacuation
 - a. Address on-street parking in VHFHZ, at least during Wildfire season, so that it complies with the California Vehicle Code and the California Fire Code of 20 feet of minimum clear width.
 - 1) Parking permitted on both sides of the street with street widths of 36 feet (10,973 mm) or more.
 - 2) Parking permitted on one side of the street with street widths of 28 to 35 feet (8,534 to 10,668 mm).
 - 3) No parking permitted when street widths are less than 28 feet (8,534 mm).
 - b. Create/update Los Gatos Hillside Evacuation plan.
 - c. Install a Wildfire Siren system throughout the VHFHZ in the Town of Los Gatos (like Tsunami sirens).
3. Defensible Space
 - a. Adopt an expanded definition of Defensible Space within the VHFHZ in the Town of Los Gatos along these lines:

In the VHFHZ a property owner’s responsibility is to provide 100 feet of defensible space around all structures and occupied buildings on their property. When an occupied building is less than 100 feet from a property line and combustible vegetation on an adjacent parcel presents a fire hazard for the occupied building the owner of the adjacent parcel where the hazard exists shall be responsible for fuel modification.
 - b. Contact and educate all residents in the VHFHZ on expanded Defensible Space requirements.
 - c. Implement a Defensible Space Inspection Program.
 - d. Hire a Defensible Space Inspector. Additional responsibility will be grant writing for Wildfire Preparation and Prevention grants (see Item 6).
4. Vegetation Management
 - a. Implement enhanced vegetation management (modified Fuel Breaks) in the public rights of way in VHFHZ. Reduce the 25-year trim cycle.

**Town of Los Gatos – Public Safety
Wildfire Preparation/Prevention
2020 Priorities**

- b. Implement a Eucalyptus tree removal program in VHFHZ.
- 5. Fire Protection
 - a. Install fire hydrants, served by SJWC, in hillside areas without public fire hydrant service.
 - b. Survey and study the VHFHZ to determine where ownership/operation of private fire hydrants by individuals or local Mutual Water companies should be transitioned to SJWC.
- 6. Grant Funding; Pursue grants to fund:
 - a. Enhanced vegetation management for Eucalyptus removal, shaded fuel breaks, and other fire mitigation efforts.
 - b. Historical property “fireproofing” measures to increase protection of Historical buildings in Los Gatos.
 - c. Evacuation Planning and Egress/Ingress Safety.
 - d. Wildfire Prevention Planning.

From: Phil Koen

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 10:54 AM

To: Marcia Jensen <MJensen@losgatosca.gov>; BSpector <BSpector@losgatosca.gov>; Marico Sayoc <MSayoc@losgatosca.gov>; Rob Rennie <RRennie@losgatosca.gov>

Cc: Laurel Prevetti <LPrevetti@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: suggested changes to the Strategic priorities for FY 2020 - 2022

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Please see the attached documents for your consideration.

Thank you.

Phil Koen

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I would like to suggest the following changes to the draft Strategic Priorities FY 2020 – 2022.

Core Goals

- I would suggest changing “good governance” to “transparency”. Good government cannot be achieved without transparency and accountability. You heard at recent council meetings that residents are “surprised” by Council decisions and are sometimes not fully informed of matters that are of critical concern to them. I suggest the Council commit to specifically improving transparency which will result in “good governance”.
- I would suggest changing “fiscal stability” to “long term financial sustainability”. The Town annually adopts a balanced (i.e. “stable”) budget, but over the long run this does not guarantee long term financial sustainability. As an example, since 2015 net total governmental expenditures have increased 72% (increasing from \$17.8m in 2015 to \$30.6m in 2019). In 2019 total tax revenues barely exceeded net governmental expenditures as compared to having \$7.6m in surplus tax revenues in 2015. I think we need to ask ourselves as we adopt annual priorities, approve annual budgets or implement a new General Plan if these actions are consistent with long term financial sustainability.

Specific Priorities

- I believe Wildfire Protection should be its own specific priority. To achieve this there are a number of actions the Town might consider taking, including adopting a mandatory 100 foot defensible zone for all lots in the VHFHSZ, committing to a 7 year (best practices) tree maintenance cycle (currently 15 years), working with PG&E to insure all power poles and transmission lines in the Town are properly maintained and clear of brush, and increasing outreach programs to residents in VHFHSZ on actions they can take to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- Establish a two year pavement condition index goal of 70 and invest sufficient money to achieve this PCI level. According to reports from MTC (attached) the Town currently has a three

year average PCI of 67 which has declined by 6 points over the past 10 years. Achieving a PCI of 70 has an impact on the Town's ability to use Measure B funds.

- Actively encourage citizen participation in Town governance. When citizens become involved in what government does, they become more invested. Additionally active citizens are more willing to express their views about policy decisions that affect them. Active citizen participation will help the Council focus on issues that are top of mind for residents and act accordingly. There is no "button" Council can push to increase participation - rather this will only come through sustained commitment by the Council and Staff.

Thank you.

Phil Koen

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FY 2020-2022



CORE GOALS: COMMUNITY CHARACTER • GOOD GOVERNANCE • FISCAL STABILITY • QUALITY PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE • CIVIC ENRICHMENT • PUBLIC SAFETY

ONGOING PRIORITIES

TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION

Comprehensive Parking Study

- Short, Medium, and Long Term Actions

Transportation Demand Management

- Summer/Rush Hour/School Traffic
- Develop Measure B Transportation Projects
- Install Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
- Community Shuttle

QUALITY OF LIFE

Community Vitality

- Events and Other Efforts

Economic Vitality

- Policies and Ordinances

SAFETY

Emergency Preparedness

- CERT Recruitment and Training
- Community communication

Fire Protection

- Vegetation management on Town properties
- Enhanced community education

PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Address Pension and OPEB Obligations

- Additional Discretionary Payments (ADPs)
- Reduced Amortization Strategies
- Pension Contribution Management Strategies

Sell or Lease Certain Town Properties

ANTICIPATED NEW

*Regional Housing Needs
Allocation Process*

*Updating Town Ordinances in
Alignment with New State
Housing Legislation*

Regional Transportation

IN PROGRESS

General Plan 2040

- Objective Standards
- Environmental Sustainability

Vehicle Miles Travelled Policy

Streamline regulations to enhance
Town businesses

School Bus Pilot

EOC Upgrades

RECENTLY COMPLETED

Almond Grove Streets

Measure G (Sales Tax)
Implementation

\$8.9 M CalPERS Pension Payment

Short Term Rentals

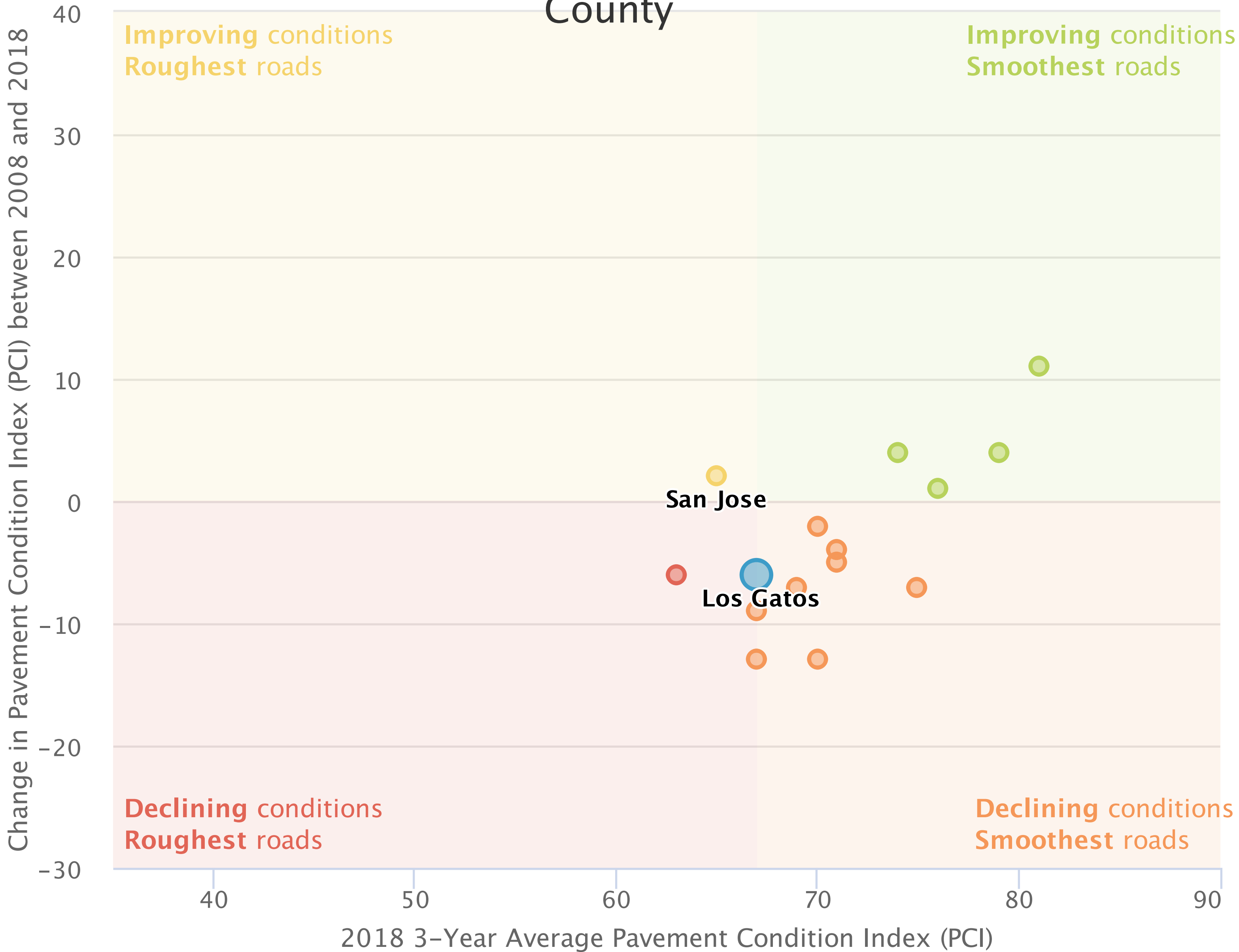
Complete Streets Policy

One-Way Downtown Street Pilot

Annexation of Small County
Pockets

ATTACHMENT 2

2018 Street Pavement Condition Distribution by City – Santa Clara County



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