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*SVBC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization*
EIN 77-0338658

<http://bikesiliconvalley.org>

San José City Council
C/O Office of the City Clerk,
City of San José,
200 E Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113

June 8, 2020

Re: Comments related to Item 5.1, the Charcot Ave. Extension Project

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

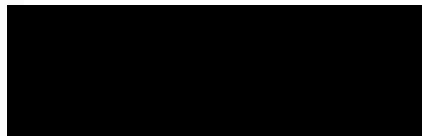
On behalf of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC), a nonprofit creating a healthy community, environment, and economy through bicycling, I am writing to share our organization's thoughts on vehicle capacity-increasing projects at this critical time.

The primary purpose of the Charcot Ave. extension project is to improve vehicular traffic operations into North San José. Pre-COVID, there were a lot of jobs in that area. Now, where many employees will work in the future is uncertain as we deal with the public health crisis and changing business norms. SVBC encourages the council to reexamine its priorities, particularly for projects, like Charcot, that increase car capacity to areas where it may not be needed.

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition believes society is at an inflection point where we should stop expanding roadways that have primarily benefitted wealthier car owners at the expense of residents who would suffer from increased pollution and greater risks of injury.

We are supportive of a bike and ped only bridge option in this area as it would provide many benefits to local residents. We realize this project has been in the various plans for multiple decades, but that does not mean it should continue forward. Just like San José took the bold step to stop planning for major expansions into Coyote Valley, it should plan for more sustainable means to move people instead of private automobiles going forward.

Sincerely,



Shiloh Ballard,
President and Executive Director