

Talk to VTA Board, 12/11/14
re: BART and the Alum Rock Station

I'm Larry Ames, Chair of San Jose's Neighborhoods Commission representing the concerns of neighborhoods all across San Jose.

And neighborhoods all across San Jose are affected by this apparent decision on the Alum Rock BART Station.

As we say in our letter to the SJ Council, we are concerned by the process by which VTA appeared to abruptly change plans for the Alum Rock BART Station.

The surrounding communities have been working with VTA and the City for years to develop plans for a cluster of Urban Villages centered on the Station.

Those plans have now been thrown in doubt.

If you need to change plans, changes should be done in an open and public process, carefully and with deliberation, and with the engagement of the communities.

As I said, this impacts neighborhoods all across San Jose: as described in the Envision 2040 General Plan Update, San Jose is planning on accommodating significant growth in the coming years, and this is to be done with High Density Developments centered on transit nodes – your transportation network.

But if VTA can abruptly move or eliminate a node, it makes it harder for us in the neighborhoods to be welcoming of these high-density developments.

Please make any decision regarding the Alum Rock Station, or any transit node, with the full engagement of the community.

Thank you.