

From: [D. Muirhead](#)
To: [Angie Gonzalez](#); [Michelle Wilson](#)
Subject: Council Meeting Sept 07, 2016 Comment Item #19: High Speed Rail update
Date: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 9:33:22 AM
Attachments: [hsr.cwg08.pdf](#)
[hsr.cwg04.pdf](#)

Dear Morgan Hill City Council,

Comments for the Public Record submitted by
Doug Muirhead, a resident of Morgan Hill, for:
Morgan Hill City Council
Meeting Sept 07, 2016
Item #19: High Speed Rail update
Thank you for your consideration.

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Item #19: High Speed Rail update

HSR is my shorthand for High Speed Rail San Jose to Merced Project Section.

Before I get into my list of specific comments on and requests for information from the City and from HSR, I will give you the same anti-silo message that I gave to VTA and SCVWD.

While I understand the need to honor organization chart and department boundaries within your agency, these silos need their contents poured into one red barn with white trim and a sign on the door that says "Welcome Informed Public".

And if our residents cannot get information from HSR, then I want the City to be the proxy server.

1) City web page for HSR

You need to include the link to the web page in all agenda items and any other City communications. Its existence was mentioned in the June 1, 2016 staff report but not in the September 7 one.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The City of Morgan Hill has a HSR web page that provides basic information on the project

But even if you guess the path is

Home>Government>Departments>Economic Development
you have to go into Projects side-bar in order to find High-Speed-Rail.

2) Community Working Group meetings

On the City web page for HSR, you say the Community Working Group meetings are open to the public, but neither the City nor HSR provided public notice of the April 14 and August 11 meetings.

In fact, until the meetings appeared on the HSR web site (and I don't know if that happened before or after each meeting), there had been no mention of Community Working Groups. The first meeting was April 14, but neither the San Jose to Merced Community Open House on May 19 at the Gilroy Senior Center, nor the Council presentation on June 1, 2016, mentioned the existence of Community Working Groups. Using the HSR comment form on the City web site, I asked

Who were selected to represent Morgan Hill?
and Mr. Lang responded
The City of Morgan Hill provided CHSRA a few names for consideration.
The CHSRA selected the participants.

Morgan Hill participants are John McKay, John Horner and Lesley Miles.

3) Alignment options

After attending the Community Open House in Gilroy on May 19, I went to the San Jose to Merced Project Section to get an electronic version of the San Jose to Gilroy maps that were displayed on the tables at the meeting. They were not available on-line. The Maps heading on the HSR site continues to have only two stick-figure diagrams

San Jose to Wye Alternatives (from April 13 2016)

San Jose to Merced Map (from March 2016)

I suggested that they add the date of the map so we could see when last updated; they have not done so.

HSR has still not put the conceptual roll plots from the May Open House on-line.

The current City staff report says that at the August Working Group meeting, a revised Highway 101 alignment was unveiled. There is a one-page map in the CWG presentation on the HSR web site.

Is that all there is?

You should have included it in the staff report for tonight.

Attachment hsr.cwg08.pdf:

High Speed Rail-Community Working Group- August 11th

Presentation: PROJECT DETAILS: Morgan Hill/Gilroy Subsection

And just for historical completeness, here is the other one-page diagram in the CWG presentation from April.

Attachment hsr.cwg04.pdf:

High Speed Rail-Community Working Group- April 14th

Presentation: November 2016 Identify Initial Preferred Alternative

West of Coyote Creek Parkway Alignment Option *Preliminary

4) Information updates.

At HSR, I am subscribed to the SF and SJ project sections. I get construction updates. I want to be notified when future Community Working Groups will meet. I made that request on the High Speed Rail Comments web form recently; too soon to have a response.

I am basically baffled. The HSR Open House was informative and staff very open to answering questions. So why not meeting notices and on-line detailed maps (we know the maps are preliminary).

Mr. Lang, responding to my HSR comments on the City web site, said

The California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) provides noticing of their community working group meetings via their website.

They set their agenda and postings. We have been in communication with the CHSRA about greater transparency with the Morgan Hill community about meetings and noticing.

Our Morgan Hill City teammates are working on scheduling a Morgan Hill community meeting on the CHSR towards the end of September.

5) Your Consultant Agreements

At your June meeting on Reimbursement Agreements, you retained David J. Powers & Associates (DJP&A) to provide technical feedback regarding project alternatives. You also retained Apex Strategies for policy and advocacy support with regional and state agencies.

Are they providing status reports? Do you have a timeline?

What have they or will they learn that the community should know?