



7160 Echo Ridge Drive
San Jose, CA 95120

April 15, 2014

Mr. Hans E. Larsen, Director
San Jose Department of Transportation
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Hans:

On behalf of the Almaden Valley Community Association, I would like to thank you for your appearance and comments in our neighborhood last night. Unfortunately, little that you heard was a surprise, but clearly everyone was glad to get the message directly from you.

In the course of publicizing this event, I received a number of comments via NextDoor, and not all of them made it into last night's conversation. Further, when we had Dan Collen here to discuss Almaden Expressway, there were topics that came up that touched on your domain.

Here are some of the comments:

[Don Williams](#) from [Country Club](#) said:

Thanks for the information. Can't make it tomorrow, but just want to send the message: Our little cul-de-sac with about 15 houses likely pays over \$150,000 per year in property taxes. Why do we have to live with crumbling pavement and potholes in front of our houses! We pay so much that we should have a full time government worker camped out on our street all day long sweeping gutters, patching roads, and following up on anything we need! Ha ha.

Seriously though, at least they should do some simple patching, to avoid the growing crumbling pavement. Or worse yet, residents taking matters into their own hands and patching it themselves.

[Tara Carriere](#) from [Country Club](#) said:

I can't make it tonight but would like to suggest a left turn arrow at the corner of Trinidad and Almaden Expressway. This traffic light is dangerous during peak morning hours. The amount of traffic going to and returning from the school is significant. To turn left onto Almaden Expressway from Trinidad drivers must move to the middle of the intersection and wait to turn left. Drivers must navigate an obstructed view from oncoming cars and cars waiting to turn left coming from the opposite direction. There are pedestrians walking and children riding bikes to school that are vulnerable to drivers racing to turn before the light turns red. The current light system allows for one maybe two drivers to turn before returning to red.

Dan Collen mentioned that help was coming for the Trinidad intersection. In the San Jose part of this intersection, we have had requests for a left turn lane striped into Trinidad on the east side of the Expressway. The first response has been that the street is too narrow to accommodate three lanes. I have wondered if that problem could be alleviated by further restricting parking near the corner.

While I don't have a quote, another Almaden Expressway complaint concerned northbound cars at Camden cheating the Camden Avenue light by turning right onto Camden, doing a U-

turn, then doing a right turn back onto northbound Almaden Expressway. Illegal and dangerous, clearly. A modest center barrier in Camden would discourage that behavior in the absence of nearby police cars.

As I look around our area, I see that a number of streets have become accidental throughways, which has accelerated their deterioration. Nice neighborhood streets like Trinidad, Hampton and Crown Boulevard fit that category. Crown will be assaulted anew when the Almaden Country Club starts their major expansion.

Laura Wells gave us a list of contact numbers, including the Maintenance Dispatch contact. You mentioned last night that private contractors are required to finish things off well, and I know that you cannot possibly have enough eyes to see every instance of contractors' sloppy work. Is there a different contact for cases where the street has been inadequately restored after an excavation?

But you hear enough complaining. We really do appreciate your meeting with us, face to face, and we recognize that you may have an impossible job.

Cordially,



Bob Strain, President
Almaden Valley Community Association

cc. Dave Fadness
AVCA Board of Directors