

May 20, 2015

Los Altos City Council
City of Los Altos
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Subject: Budgeting for Downtown Plan in Fiscal Year 2015/16

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Los Altos Property Owners Downtown (LAPOD) Board of Directors.

LAPOD appreciates that the City Council has made making a downtown plan a city priority. As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget, LAPOD urges you to allocate funds to advance this priority.

Further, LAPOD recommends that the city include the Civic Center in the plan so a comprehensive plan can be developed for the downtown, the Civic Center and the optimal connections of the two.

In addition, LAPOD recommends that the plan include the following key elements associated with Specific Plans (<http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/specific/>):

- Meaningful community involvement in developing a “vision of future growth and development.”
- “The proposed distribution, location, and extent and intensity of major components of public and private transportation...and other essential facilities proposed to be located within the area covered by the plan and needed to support the land uses described in the plan.” LAPOD believes it is particularly important that the plan include a comprehensive parking management plan that optimizes downtown and Civic Center resources to address parking required by the community’s vision for its future growth and development.
- “A program of implementation measures including regulations, programs, public works projects, and financing measures necessary” to implement the plan.
- Adoption of the plan by ordinance.

LAPOD believes developing such an integrated plan for the downtown and Civic Center will provide residents, merchants, property owners, and all community stakeholders with a clear vision, policy, and infrastructure and financing strategy for the future. LAPOD commends the City Council for making a downtown plan a city priority and encourages it to develop this kind of comprehensive planning strategy to learn what, if any, increased density the community desires for the downtown and Civic Center and how that can best be achieved.

Sincerely,



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Chair

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cc: City Manager, City Clerk