



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR MAHAN

FROM: Councilmember Domingo Candelas

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/23/24

Approved

Date: 5/23/24

RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2024-2025 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Sideshow Deterrence

Amount of City Funding Required: \$40,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): CE# 40

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

This scalable, District 8 traffic safety improvement allocation will deter reckless driving behavior, bringing a greater sense of safety and improved quality of life for drivers and pedestrians.

Implementing these traffic safety intersection improvements will help mitigate speeding, illegal racing, drifting, and sideshows which all pose a significant risk to the safety and security of our residents and businesses. The City has a multi-decade backlog of traffic safety improvements. While quick-build installations and hardscape upgrades can cost-effectively deter these illegal activities, limitations in funding allocations have hindered the effectiveness of our approach as a city.

Dozens of residents have underscored the severity of these reckless driver behaviors by contacting the Council District 8 office, the San José Police Department, and the San José Department of Transportation (DOT), among other Vision Zero-aligned organizations and safe streets advocates. Various traffic studies

have further demonstrated the extent of the problem, with some corridors seeing weekly and daily instances of illegal drifting, speeding exhibitions, and street racing. While additional traffic safety infrastructure has been implemented in various District 8 neighborhoods within the last year, the absence of substantial, at-large deployment has allowed dangerous driver behaviors to be further entrenched in our community.

One District 8 corridor has experienced two to three donut-drifting and speeding incidents every few hours outside single-family homes, with some instances happening in front of San José Department of Transportation survey crews. The Norwood, Meadowlands, and Welch neighborhoods have seen the highest propensity of incidents. In one instance, a house was hit by a drifting vehicle that lost control.

Traffic Safety improvements may include the installation of flexible and rigid traffic control devices, such as paint, raised pavement markers, chatter bars, low profile speed humps, botts dots, and delineators, to reduce intersection size and/or narrow roadway space. Specifically, intersection treatments may consist of curb extensions, median island extensions, and/or botts dots, strategically placed to reduce available space for drifting and donut maneuvers. Corridor treatment may consist of quick-build materials adjacent to bike lanes or in the median/centerline. DOT will work with the Council District 8 office to identify the best use of this funding.

As advocacy for continued traffic safety improvements and funding continues, it is important to tackle mitigations promptly to find the most effective and scalable solutions within a feasibly expedited time frame. Public safety is a top priority, and the proper preparation of solutions is instrumental to achieving safer streets for all our District 8 neighborhoods facing these reckless driver behaviors.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Rick Scott, Assistant Director

Department or Organization: Department of Transportation

Phone Number: 408-535-3850

Email: Rick.Scott@SanJoseCA.Gov